

### International copyright conference opens in Beirut

BEIRUT (AFP) — An international conference for the protection of intellectual property rights opened Tuesday in Beirut. About 20 Arab, European and U.S. private companies and representatives of Arab public sector administrations took part in the two-day conference organised by the U.N.'s World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO), the Lebanese ministry of economy and the Al Ittissad Wal Amal economic magazine. Among main participants were Microsoft, the pharmaceutical company Hoechst, the Arab Radio and Television (ART) station, Kuwait's biggest computer production firm Sakhr as well as the unions of Arab lawyers and publishers. Sakhr Sales Director Fahd Mohammad Al Charekh said "80 per cent of computer software used in the Arab World are pirated."

# Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation  
جوردين تيمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية «الراي»

### Minor quakes rocks Cyprus

NICOSIA (AP) — Five minor earthquakes shook the island of Cyprus on Tuesday morning, and many residents and tourists in the southern resort city of Limassol fled their rooms for the streets. Police said there were no immediate reports of casualties or damage on the Mediterranean island. Sotiris Kramvis at the Cyprus Seismological Centre said preliminary readings indicated there were five separate quakes ranging in magnitude from 3.5 to 4.5. A quake with a magnitude of about 4 can cause moderate damage. Mr. Kramvis said they occurred between 7:32 a.m. and 8:37 a.m. He said scientists were still trying to determine if there was more than one epicentre. The quakes were felt all over the island, from Limassol in the south to Morphou in the northwest in the area under Turkish Cypriot control, he said.

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## Crown Prince calls for realising potential of youth VTC, Ministry of Education win Prince Hassan's award for excellence

AMMAN (J.T.) — Their Royal Highnesses Crown Prince Hassan and Princess Sarvath on Tuesday presented the annual El-Hassan Bin Talal Award for Academic Excellence to the Vocational Training Corporation (VTC) and the Ministry of Education for their contribution to the development of education and training.

VTC Director General Ali Nasrallah received the second JD3,000 prize on behalf of the VTC for a project on "Developing support services for small and medium scale enterprises." Basem Ibrahim, a teacher, received the third JD2,000 prize on behalf of the Ministry of Education for a project on "Assembly of an electrical trainer."

The first JD5,000 prize of the El-Hassan Bin Talal Award for Academic Excellence was not awarded this year because none of the presented projects nominated for it acquired distinction or showed aspects of creative work deserving the first prize.

In a speech at the award ceremony, Prince Hassan called for greater efforts to promote and encourage the youth's potential and their

creative talents, noting that young people under 27 years of age will form the majority of the Jordanian society within the coming 15 years.

Prince Hassan emphasised the importance of exerting efforts to achieve the nation's objectives, stressing that there should be no frustration in public work and in serving the common good.

In his address, the Crown Prince called for adopting the principle of dialogue as an approach and method of work and for expanding the base of participation to involve civil society institutions within the state of law.

Prince Hassan stressed the need for developing manpower resources, releasing the individual's potential for creative work, adding that the time has come for the Jordanian individual to serve as an effective and active force in the building of the Kingdom's future.

Prince Hassan noted that among the main objectives of the award, which was established in 1995 under the sponsorship of Princess Sarvath, is the investment in the building of the new generation of young people

who can build their nation in stages requiring a high degree of competence, efficiency, training and creativity.

Referring to the wide base of creative and competent forces in Jordan, Prince Hassan said that these forces are dispersed, and called for the establishment of a data base to complete the linkage among the country's 524 scientific and technological private and public sector institutions.

He was referring to the recommendations of a study on "National Scientific and Technological Requirements and Potential" recently finalised by the Higher Council for Science and Technology (HCST).

Prince Hassan referred to the country's companies law, which he said provides for one per cent of the companies' net profits to be invested in training and research, saying that such arrangement can only bear fruit with the presence of a data base that can determine the national needs and priorities.

On the regional level, the Crown Prince stressed that Jordan ought to develop its relations with other Arab

states on a basis that would serve common goals, adding that this should be coupled by harmonising legislation in the various Arab states.

He called for cooperation among states stretching from the Maghreb to Turkey.

Prince Hassan pointed out that many countries around the world view this region from the angle of its purchasing potential and deal with its leaderships through an obsolete stance which he said "reminds us of the colonial policies of the late 19th century and of the (divide and rule) system."

Prince Hassan noted that Europe has started shifting its interest from south western Asia to eastern Asia ignoring the southern and eastern parts of the Mediterranean and western Asia, considering them as unqualified to participate in a dialogue despite the huge wealth and potential of these countries.

The El Hassan Bin Talal Award for Academic Excellence, which aims to encourage academic, scientific, and technological activities in all institutions involved in education and training, is granted to one

of three categories sequentially every year: Institutions of general education, institutions of higher education, and institutions of vocational and technical education.

The 1996 prizes, dedicated public education foundations, were conferred on the Baccalaureate School and Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation.

In 1997, the prizes were awarded to the University of Jordan, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) Educational Science College in Amman, and to the University of Yarmouk/Islamic Numismatic Department.

An Award Committee, presided by Princess Sarvath and composed of six members chosen for their expertise, appoints a panel of experts to study the applications and examine the scientific achievements.

Yesterday's ceremony was attended by Their Royal Highnesses Prince Ra'd Ben Zeid and Prince Ghazi Ben Mohammad, acting Prime Minister Abdullah Ensour, HCST Director Osama Khalidi, members of the Award Committee and other officials.



Their Royal Highnesses Crown Prince Hassan and Princess Sarvath with the winners of El Hassan Bin Talal Awards for Academic Excellence and members of the Award Committee (Photo by Boghos)

## 16 firms bid to operate Aqaba railway franchise

By Tareq Ayyoub  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Sixteen international firms will compete to win a concession to operate the Aqaba Railway Corporation (ARC) and to increase the transportation capacity of phosphate to Aqaba, according to Minister of Transportation Sami Gammo.

The company to be selected for carrying out the expansion operation will by the year 1999 take the ARC's role in operating the phosphate-transportation operations, the minister told a group of 50 foreign investors, who gathered in Amman Tuesday to get acquainted with the terms of the project.

"The project is the first privatisation initiative in the transport sector. It is also an essential step towards improving the efficiency and infrastructure of the ARC," Mr. Gammo said, noting that the costs to expand the ARC are expected to exceed \$100 million.

The minister said that the privatisation of the ARC is meant to meet the increased demand for Jordanian phosphate in European and Asian markets.

The company that will be

selected for the project, the minister continued, will help in creating a modern and competitive rail system, developing a railway infrastructure and ensuring that railway operations are carried out safely and in an environment-friendly manner.

Dr. Gammo said the rejuvenation of the ARC is vital for the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC) and is primarily aimed at increasing the annual transportation capacity from three million metric tonnes to eight million metric tonnes and at meeting the requirements of a vital freight infrastructure.

The government will assume the liabilities of the ARC, which include the corporation's long-term debts, the rights of its employees and the existing pension liabilities, said the minister without elaborating on the ARC's debts.

He said that the winner company will also construct two extensions of the railway from the Shidiya mines to the Yamania-Tetten industrial area near Aqaba and another from the port down to the industrial complex about 16 kilometres south of Aqaba city.

Transportation Ministry officials said that German, American, Belgian, Spanish, Italian, Swedish, French and Lebanese firms will compete alongside Jordanian firms to win the concession to operate the ARC for about 25 years.

The winner firm will assess the return it expects to receive from the investments it will make in return for a concession fee for running the railway.

Competitors will have to submit technical offers by July 5. Those whose technical proposals are selected will then be asked to submit financial proposals. The winning proposal will be selected by November, the officials said.

"Our hope is the winner company will start its operations by May 1999," Mr. Gammo said.

The privatisation plan includes Jordan Telecommunication Company, Jordan Cement Factories Company, National Power Electric Company, National Petroleum Company, ARC, Royal Jordanian, Amman-Zarqa light rail service, public transport restructuring and Jordan Investment Corporation.

## Jordan, Turkey prepare for military exercises

AMMAN (Agencies) — Jordan and Turkey have exchanged troops for joint training as part of an effort to expand military cooperation, Jordan News Agency, Petra, said Tuesday.

The agency said a company of Turkish troops arrived here Monday and a company of Jordanian troops left for Turkey for "joint exercises that the Jordanian Armed Forces conducts with armies in brotherly and friendly countries."

Major General Tahseen Shurdum, chief of staff of the Jordanian Land Forces,

deputed for Field Marshal Abdul Hafez Mirai Kaabneh, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, in seeing the troops who left for Turkey Monday and welcomed the Turkish company.

According to Petra the aim of the exercises is to "exchange experience, gain knowledge, develop training proficiency and get acquainted with the capabilities and new training methods of each other."

The agency did not provide other details, and military officials were not immediately available for comment.

## Iraq renews call for dialogue with U.S.

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Iraq has renewed its call for a dialogue with the United States but at the same time accused Washington of seeking a new crisis between the United Nations and Baghdad to justify military action.

"Iraq is ready for a direct dialogue, whether it be public or not, or through diplomatic channels," Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz said on state television late Monday.

"We have been proposing

this for the last few years, and at all levels. But they [the Americans] have refused," said Mr. Aziz, adding that Washington fears dialogue because "it does not have arguments with which to oppose Iraq."

The official daily Babel, meanwhile, charged that the U.S. administration was "preparing a new aggression against Iraq."

"The guard dogs have started barking again, to prepare [public] opinion for a new strike," said the

newspaper, which is run by President Saddam Hussein's son Uday.

In February, "such aggression was made impossible because the world rejected and condemned it, including U.S. public opinion," Babel said.

It was referring to the U.N.-Iraq crisis over arms inspections that was defused by a Feb. 23 accord brokered by U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan, heading off U.S. and British threats of military action.

## Jordan, France sign tourism agreement

By Hind-Lara Mango  
Special to the Jordan Times.

AMMAN — The French hotel company ACCOR and the Jordan Investment Corporation (JIC) on Tuesday signed an agreement to promote and develop Jordan's tourism sector.

The signing of the agreement was witnessed by French Minister of Tourism Michelle Demessine and Jordan's Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Akel Biltaji.

"As a result of this agreement Ma'in spa will be marketed by ACCOR which is a private sector hotel company encompassing 2,800 hotels," Mr. Biltaji told the Jordan Times.

The terms of the agreement include the formation of a committee of ten people from the private and public sectors in Jordan to learn from French experience the principles of tourism administration.

Mr. Biltaji said that the visiting French delegation found some weaknesses in Jordan's administrative operations in the sector of

tourism. "A French team will be coming to Jordan to work with the Amman Hospitality and Tourism College," he said.

In order to further develop the 1992 French-Jordanian tourism agreement, Ms. Demessine spent two days in Jordan accompanied by a seven-member delegation from her ministry and the private sector representing the hotel managers and tour operators.

The cooperation agreement between the governments of France and Jordan stipulates commercial and technical assistance in the fields of tourism between the two countries. The visit was upon the invitation of Mr. Biltaji.

"The French receive 68 million tourists a year. This means that Jordan receives during the course of one year what the French receive in four days," Mr. Biltaji told the Jordan Times.

"If we could attract one per cent of this market it would be very good," Mr. Biltaji said adding that as a

result of events such as the Jordan Season in Paris last year, there has been an increase of 16 per cent in the number of French tourists to Jordan compared to 1996.

"We want to enhance the development of tourism between the two countries for the promotion of Jordanian tourism. We also want to reactivate relations in the field of training for hotel personnel, tour guides, and the development of archaeological sites," said Christian Ponsot, economic and commercial counsellor at the French embassy.

According to Mr. Ponsot, France receives the highest number of tourists every year compared to any other European country "making it number one in tourism." French experience in the development of tourism "could be transferred to Jordan through organisations such as the Jordan Tourism Board," he said.

"French-Jordanian relations in tourism have been further enhanced with the launching of direct lines

between Amman and Paris through its national airline Air France," said Mr. Ponsot.

During her two-day official visit Ms. Demessine attended the soft opening of the Amman Hospitality and Tourism College which has been allocated JD800,000 in kind this year from the French government to launch its training programme.

"The French government will be shouldering the cost of operating this school for the first two years," Ms. Demessine told the Jordan Times on the eve of her departure from Amman.

The school is expected to be in full operation by September. For the past four years a group of French consultants funded by the French government have been working on revamping the school and proposed plans for its reopening involving the private sector.

"A French-Jordanian financial protocol will provide finance for the purchase of kitchen equipment for the school which is expected to train 170 stu-

dents at one time in its different sections of hotel and tour guide training," said Genevieve Jean-Van Rossum, the French cultural attaché in Jordan.

In archaeology France has been lending its expertise in the development of tourist sites through research and renovation. The French Institute for Archaeology in the Middle East (EVAPO) deals mainly with research and "this helps the promotion of the sites of Jordan, and to develop projects," said Ms. Van Rossum.

To date French experts have worked on sites such as Qasir Amra, Iraq Al Amir, and for the past 15 years French archaeologists have been working in Jerash. It is expected that by the end of this year attempts will be made to rebuild and preserve a Hellenistic Temple there. The French Louvre Museum will be lending technical and financial assistance to this project. Ms. Demessine disclosed that the French government had allocated JD131,000 to this project.

## Arab League states to sign anti-terror convention today

CAIRO (AFP) — The 22 members of the Arab League are set to sign the first Arab convention against terrorism today, which, however, exempts armed attacks against foreign occupiers, a reference to Israel.

The Egyptian-inspired treaty, which took four years to hash out, bars acts of terrorism against the convention's signatories.

The draft convention distinguishes between terrorist acts and "the armed struggle against foreign occupation or for liberation and self-determination." But it spells out that "any act harmful to the territorial integrity of a signatory country is not considered a struggle" for liberation that is legitimate.

This clause was introduced at the behest of Morocco which wants to guard against legit-

imising the battle for Western Sahara by the separatist Polisario Front.

The convention also differentiates between acts of terrorism and "political crimes" and sets out a list of acts "which are not considered political crimes even if they are committed for political reasons."

The list includes "any attack on presidents, kings, crown princes, vice presidents and ministers" of the parties to the convention.

It also bars attacks on "people under international protection, including ambassadors and diplomats."

Under the draft convention, the signatories "pledge not to order, finance or commit terrorist acts in accordance with the national laws of each country."

They would also have to extend full security

and judiciary cooperation with other signatories, especially in the exchange of information on terrorist activities and extradition of terrorist suspects.

Egypt, which has been under a wave of Islamists violence since 1992 that has killed more than 1,360 people, originated the idea of an Arab convention on terrorism.

In Algeria, where the situation is graver, more than 70,000 people have died in the conflict between Islamists and the government. Algeria is a strong supporter of the Egyptian initiative, as are Libya, Saudi Arabia and Tunisia, Arab diplomats said.

The convention would take effect 30 days after it is signed by members' interior and justice ministers.



## First-ever Palestinian flight of medical aid leaves for Baghdad

GAZA CITY (AFP) — A Palestinian Airways plane loaded with medical supplies and food aid left for Baghdad Tuesday in the first such Palestinian donation to help Iraqis suffering under U.N. sanctions, officials said.

Suha, the wife of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, saw off the plane containing five tonnes of medicines, food and milk from the Egyptian airport of Al Arish in the

Sinai peninsula. "This is just a small amount to express our solidarity with the children of Iraq, who suffer as we do from deprivation and hunger," Ms. Arafat told journalists.

The head of Palestinian civil aviation, Fayed Zaidan, said the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) had received permission from the United Nations for the flight from Al Arish to Baghdad via

## Israeli court extends detention of 22 Lebanese 'hostages'

TEL AVIV (AFP) — A Tel Aviv court has extended by six months the detention of 22 Lebanese, including two kidnapped leaders of the Hizbollah militia, who are being held as bargaining chips for Israeli soldiers missing in Lebanon, court officials said Tuesday.

The court ruling, issued behind closed doors on Monday, notably concerned sheikhs Abdul Karim Obeid and Mustapha Dirani, senior Hizbollah leaders who were abducted by Israeli soldiers in Lebanon in 1989 and 1994 respectively, the officials said.

Israel's supreme court acknowledged earlier this year that the 22 Lebanese were being held as virtual hostages to be exchanged for Israeli soldiers captured or

## Palestinian police let jailed Hamas students out for school

BIR ZEIT (AFP) — Two Palestinian students jailed for links to Hamas attended classes for the first time in eight months on Tuesday, after police agreed to allow them out of their cells each day for studies.

## Israeli court sentences Russian immigrant with reputed mafia ties

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — The Jerusalem District Court handed down a six-year sentence and \$1.4 million fine on Tuesday to a Russian immigrant businessman who admitted bribing top Israeli politicians.

The sentence was the maximum set under a plea bargain agreement under which two of the 15 charges against Gregory Lerner were dropped and a trial aborted that had been expected to expose the deepening roots of Mafia-style operations in Israel.

Lerner pleaded guilty to a series of fraud and bribery charges, including attempting to win support for a Russian-Israeli bank from then-Prime Minister Shimon Peres by offering him free time on Russian-language broadcasts during an election year.

## U.N. warns of catastrophic famine in southern Sudan

NAIROBI (AFP) — The U.N. food agency on Tuesday warned of a catastrophic famine in the south Sudanese state of Bahr Al Ghazal unless it receives permission from Khartoum to triple relief flights to the region.

The situation in Bahr Al Ghazal has reached a critical and frightening level, the World Food Programme's (WFP) director for strife-torn southern Sudan, David Fletcher, said in a statement.

The WFP is currently authorized to fly only one large C-130 Hercules transport into southern Sudan, which has long been in the grip of a civil war that has cost an estimated more than one million lives.

## Jordanian inmate at Kuwaiti deportation centre attempts suicide

KUWAIT (AP) — A Jordanian inmate held at a deportation centre for about a year slit his wrist because he was not allowed to see the facility's warden, the interior ministry said Tuesday.

The suicide attempt Monday was the second such incident in three days. Five inmates slit their wrists Saturday because they were desperate to leave the detention centre. All six were treated in hospitals and survived the attempts on their lives.

Col. Bader Saleh, the spokesman for the interior ministry, told The Associated Press there was nothing the warden could have done to release Jameel Abdul Qader, the latest victim.

## Cabinet reviews memorandum on proposed refinery at Aqaba

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Council of Ministers Tuesday reviewed a memorandum from Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Mohammad Saleh Horani on the construction of a new export-oriented oil refinery at Aqaba.

The Council, meeting in a regular session chaired by Acting Prime Minister Abdullah Ensour, approved a bid presented by the International Investment Group, a consortium comprising seven international firms, to carry out the project. They also entrusted a technical committee to prepare a memorandum of understanding with the group to be signed later after government approval of the project has been secured.

Once the memorandum has been prepared, feasibility studies on the project can be carried out, according to a Cabinet statement after the meeting.

## Jordan asks Italy to help develop Petra region

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan on Tuesday contacted the Italian government to seek help in developing the touristic and economic aspects of the Petra region in southern Jordan.

Minister of Agriculture Mijhem Khreisha met Italian Ambassador Francesco Cerulli and briefed him on his ministry's newly implemented project to develop the Petra area agricultural, describing the project as "vital" for the major tourist destination.

Noting that the project is part of an overall plan called for by His Majesty



TURKISH SOLDIERS AT ROADBLOCK: Soldiers of the Turkish army Tuesday control cars at a checkpoint near Manavgat, southern Turkey, after the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) launched another attack in the mountain region of Duzlucami, near Antalya. The Turkish army launched an offensive against the PKK rebels last week, sending helicopters and around 2,000 soldiers into Antalya, one of the biggest tourist regions of Turkey (AFP photo)

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The refinery project, to be built on a "build-operate-own" basis, is expected to create 10,000 jobs.

The Kingdom's only refinery, located at Zarqa, was built in 1961 and produces 100,000 barrels of oil products per day.

Also during the meeting, the Cabinet decided to create a tender committee chaired by the secretary general of the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources to invite bids from various international firms to construct a new electric power plant with a 350-megawatt capacity.

The Cabinet approved a \$5 million loan agreement with the World Bank to finance vocational training projects within the framework of the government-sponsored social safety package plan. Jordan's ambassador to the U.S., Marawan Muasher, was authorized to sign the deal.

The Council of Ministers endorsed a memorandum of understanding with Denmark, under which the latter will finance water- and health-sector projects including the construction of a wastewater treatment

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The suicide attempt Monday was the second such incident in three days. Five inmates slit their wrists Saturday because they were desperate to leave the detention centre. All six were treated in hospitals and survived the attempts on their lives.

Col. Bader Saleh, the spokesman for the interior ministry, told The Associated Press there was nothing the warden could have done to release Jameel Abdul Qader, the latest victim.

By court order, he has to pay debts of around 57,000 dinars (\$186,274) before he leaves," Col. Saleh said. He did not provide any further details on Abdul Qader or his debts.

The other five inmates had been freed from prison terms for theft and embezzlement but are being held in the deportation centre until they pay court fines of up to 1,500 dinars (\$4,900). None has the money to pay.

## Queen receives UNESCO special ambassador

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Tuesday hosted a working lunch for UNESCO Special Ambassador for Children in Need, Dr. Henrietta Oboler, Director General of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

The Queen, accompanied by Princess Haya, received the ambassador at the Royal Palace. The ambassador, who is a member of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), discussed the role of the Jordanian government in the development of the Kingdom's agricultural sector.

### JORDAN TELEVISION

PROGRAMME TWO  
16:10 ..... Mr. Bogus Show  
16:30 ..... French Programmes  
18:00 ..... Oliver Twist  
18:30 ..... Drama — Neighbours  
19:00 ..... Le Journal  
19:15 ..... Science Magazine — E & M  
19:30 ..... News headlines  
19:35 ..... Comedy — Campus Cops  
20:00 ..... Doc. — Cinema. Cinema  
21:30 ..... Doc. — Equinox  
21:10 ..... Drama — Kung Fu  
22:00 ..... News in English  
22:30 ..... Mini-series: "The Sackets (Pt. I)"  
23:59 ..... Country Music  
00:30 ..... End of T.X.

### PRAYER TIMES

04:32 ..... Fajr  
05:55 ..... (Sunrise) Duha  
12:34 ..... Dhuhur  
16:12 ..... 'Asr  
19:13 ..... Maghreb  
20:36 ..... 'Isha

### CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church  
Sweifeh, Tel. 5920740  
Assemblies of God Church Tel.  
4632785  
St. Joseph Church Tel.  
4624590  
Terra Sancta Church Tel.  
4622366  
Anglican Church Tel.

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

4624853/4624811.  
St. Afrem Syrian Orthodox Church Tel. 771751.  
Amman International Church Tel. 865897  
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 5688404  
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295  
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints Tel. 4654932  
St. John the Baptist at De la Salle College Tel. 5661737  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 4637440  
Greek Orthodox Church Tel. 4646138  
Church of Presentation, Sweifeh Tel. 5920146  
The United Catholic Church Tel. 4624757  
The English-Language Catholic Parish Tel. 4614190  
Evangelical Free Church Tel. 892679  
The Baptist Church Tel. 4628052  
The Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331  
The Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261

### WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology  
Relative cold weather conditions will prevail, skies partly

cloudy with a chance of scattered showers in the northern and central parts of the Kingdom, and winds westerly moderate to active. In Aqaba, it will be partly cloudy, winds northerly moderate, and seas calm.  
Amman ..... 08/17  
Aqaba ..... 15/27  
Deserts ..... 07/19  
Jordan Valley ..... 14/26  
Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 18, Aqaba 27 Humidity readings: Amman 56 per cent, Aqaba 28 per cent.

### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY  
Dr. Wissam Hazyin ..... 748563  
Dr. Mikhles Alazab ..... 820425  
Dr. Abdul Hadi Tayim ..... 4620115  
Dr. Mounir Al Qadiri ..... 779959  
Firas pharmacy ..... 5661912  
Ferdows pharmacy ..... 890280  
Al Asema pharmacy ..... 4637055  
Al Salam pharmacy ..... 4636730  
Yacoub pharmacy ..... 4644945  
Shmeisani pharmacy ..... 4637660  
Nairokh pharmacy ..... 4632672  
Najib pharmacy ..... 847632  
IRBID:  
Dr. Fawzi Abul Haija ..... 252970

### HOSPITALS

AMMAN:  
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery ..... 5921199  
The Islamic, Abdi ..... 566131/7  
Husseini Medical Centre Tel. 836813, 856856  
Luzmila ..... 4630195  
Khalidi Maternity ..... 4644281/6  
Aklich Maternity ..... 4642441/2  
Jabal Amman Maternity ..... 4642362  
Malhas, J. Amman ..... 4636140  
Palestine, Shmeisani ..... 5607071  
Shmeisani Hospital ..... 5669131  
University Hospital ..... 5353444  
Al-Muasher Hospital 5667227/9  
Al-Ahli, Abdali ..... 5664164/6  
Italian, Al-Muasher 777101/3  
Al-Bashir ..... 775111/2  
Army, Marka ..... 891611/5  
Queen Alia Hospital 5602240/50  
Amal Hospital ..... 5674155  
ZARQA:  
Zarqa Govt. Hospital ..... 09/833323  
Zarqa National Hospital ..... 09/900560  
Ibn Sina Hospital ..... 09/986732  
Al Hikma Modern Hospital ..... 09/999099  
IRBID:  
Princess Basma Hospital ..... 02/275555  
Greek Catholic Hospital ..... 02/27275  
Ibn Al Nafes Hospital ..... 02/247100

### FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT  
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (44)53200 where it should always be verified. Information on other flights are supplied on phone 44 (52700) or 4453250.

### ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights  
07:30 ..... Damascus (RJ)  
09:30 ..... Jeddah (RJ)  
09:45 ..... Larnaca (RJ)  
09:50 ..... Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)  
11:40 ..... Jeddah (add) (RJ)  
15:35 ..... New York, Amsterdam (RJ)  
17:25 ..... London (RJ)  
17:40 ..... Frankfurt (RJ)  
18:00 ..... Paris (RJ)  
18:05 ..... Istanbul (RJ)  
18:45 ..... Brussels, Vienna (RJ)  
19:05 ..... Rome (RJ)  
19:20 ..... Madrid, Geneva (RJ)  
19:30 ..... Jeddah (add) (RJ)  
20:30 ..... Jeddah (add) (RJ)

### DEPARTURES

14:00 ..... Jeddah (add) (RJ)  
15:00 ..... Jeddah (add) (RJ)  
20:10 ..... Colombo (RJ)  
20:35 ..... Beirut (RJ)  
21:00 ..... New Delhi (RJ)  
21:10 ..... Riyadh, Dhahran (RJ)  
21:15 ..... Bahrain, Doha (RJ)  
21:20 ..... Bombay (RJ)  
21:25 ..... Calcutta, Bangkok (RJ)  
22:15 ..... Dubai, Muscat (RJ)  
23:00 ..... Cairo (RJ)  
23:40 ..... Sanaa (RJ)  
Other Flights  
06:35 ..... Larnaca (CY)  
07:30 ..... Paris (AF)  
08:45 ..... Beirut (ME)  
09:20 ..... London (BA)  
11:30 ..... Cairo (MS)  
11:30 ..... Ta'iz, Sanaa (IY)  
12:45 ..... Kuwait (KU)  
14:00 ..... Jeddah (SV)  
15:00 ..... Bahrain, Muscat (GF)  
15:10 ..... Tunis (TU)  
15:30 ..... Vienna (OS)  
17:20 ..... Sharjah (AH)  
20:30 ..... Abu Dhabi, Karachi (PK)  
00:40 ..... Damascus, Amsterdam (KL)  
04:00 ..... Beirut, Athens (OA)

### DEPARTURES

06:20 ..... Jeddah (add) (RJ)  
06:30 ..... Larnaca (RJ)  
08:50 ..... Amsterdam, New York (RJ)  
10:50 ..... Rome (RJ)  
12:00 ..... Berlin (add) (RJ)  
12:45 ..... Istanbul (RJ)  
13:20 ..... London (RJ)

## Queen receives UNESCO special ambassador

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Tuesday hosted a working lunch for UNESCO Special Ambassador for Children in Need, Dr. Henrietta Oboler, Director General of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

The Queen, accompanied by Princess Haya, received the ambassador at the Royal Palace. The ambassador, who is a member of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), discussed the role of the Jordanian government in the development of the Kingdom's agricultural sector.

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### what's going

EARTH DAY CELEBRATION  
Earth Day celebration at the Jordanian Centre, Amman, will be held on Thursday, April 23, at 5:00 p.m. The programme will include a lecture on the environment, a tree-planting activity, and a quiz competition. The event is free of charge and open to all.

FILMS  
"Special film 'Memento' at the Jordanian Centre, Amman, on Thursday, April 23, at 7:00 p.m. The film is a thriller directed by Christopher Nolan. It is available on video at the Jordanian Centre.

CONCERT  
Classical music concert by the Jordanian Children's Orchestra at the Royal Centre on Thursday, April 23, at 8:00 p.m. Tickets are available at the Jordanian Centre.



## Queen receives UNESCO special ambassador

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Tuesday hosted a working lunch for UNESCO Special Ambassador for Children in Need Ute-Henriette Ohoven and UNESCO Deputy Director General Adnan Badran at Bab Al Salam, according to a press release.

They discussed UNESCO's Programme for Children in Need, which was established five years ago, to "mobilise solidarity and donations from societies at large, particularly in Europe, to fund field projects of UNESCO for the medical care and education of needy children."

According to the UNESCO director of Education for All, Dieter Bernstetter, UNESCO funds programmes in 100 countries through its local partners and hopes to make the Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) their Jordanian partner in the very near future, the statement continued.

Ambassador Ohoven, who visited the NHF's Quality of Life Project in Mukheibeh village yesterday, said she was "very impressed with NHF's comprehensive development approach, which is a model programme for the developing world."

Dr. Badran said UNESCO will work through NHF's Quality of Life Programme to fund loans for income-generating projects for women, who in turn will use the revenues to benefit their families and children in particular. He added that NHF's credit programme, which has the highest repayment rate in the country, was an indicator of the success of the programme.

Dr. Badran expressed his hope that UNESCO would use NHF's development programme as models that can be replicated throughout the developing world, particularly in Africa.

Their Royal Highnesses Prince Ra'd Ben Zeid and Princess Majda Ra'ad, Queen Noor's Education Advisor Munther Masri and Salva Damen-Masri, NHF Executive Director Sima Bahous, UNDP Area Representative Jorgen Lissner, and UNESCO's Basma Irsheid also attended the lunch with Queen Noor, the statement added.



KING CONFERS MEDAL UPON BRITISH ADMIRAL: His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday confers Jordan's Merit Medal of the First Order upon British Deputy Chief of Staff Admiral Peter Abbott. King Hussein and Admiral Abbott discussed military cooperation between Jordan and Britain (Petra photo)

## Amman mayor offers municipality's assistance with book expo

By Alia Shukri Hamzeh  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Amman Mayor Mamdouh Abbadi on Tuesday said the Greater Amman Municipality is willing to provide all assistance needed to help the Union of Jordanian Publishers (UJP) improve the quality of its international book exhibition.

Speaking at a press conference organised by the municipality and the Jordanian Union of Publishers to announce the date of Jordan's Seventh International Book Exposition, Dr. Abbadi said the city will make sure the book fair becomes "a great cultural event."

He added that the expo will provide a good opportunity for the public to gain knowledge on a variety of perspectives, adding that books work as bridges that

fill cultural gaps.

The president of the UJP, Fathi Khalil Biss, said the 10-day expo, to be held under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, will begin October 1 at the new City Hall in Ras Al 'Ain.

He said the UJP's higher committee will provide the expo's supervision and management, including sending invitations to authors and publishing houses, taking care of travel arrangements, arranging entrance for the books showing at the expo, providing the display areas, ensuring media exposure through newspapers, leaflets and posters, and distributing guidebooks and computers at the expo listing the names of recently published books and their prices.

The exposition will

include around 300 publishers showing more than 60,000 books on various subjects, and the publishers will provide the public with book prices along with a discount of not less than 25 per cent," Mr. Biss said.

He added that a cultural programme and two workshops on books and publishing will be organised on the sidelines and a special wing will be assigned for the free display of Palestinian works.

Mr. Biss said this year's special guest will be Nassereddine Assad, who will have his own wing at the expo and will hold seminars with the public.

According to Mr. Biss, the committee met Monday with the director of the Press and Publications Department, Bilal Tal, whom he said offered his help with the expo.

## Organisation launches sports programme for country's orphans

By Hind-Lara Mango  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — With the aim of integrating orphaned children into society and alleviating their suffering, the Friends of Orphaned Children Organisation (FOC) is embarking on a sports programme targeting children from all orphanages in the Kingdom.

FOC Vice President Nasim Mudeinat told the Jordan Times that plans were under way for "Health for the Future," a scientific fitness study, as part of the FOC's humanitarian programme "to

improve the quality of life for these children."

Valerie Ndaruzaniye, FOC programme coordinator, told the Jordan Times that members of the organisation are going around to various orphanages in Jordan to see what sort of sports facilities exist.

"We are basing our research on the needs of these orphanages in terms of the equipment and facilities they have. Based on our findings, we might need to bring sports equipment with us to the orphanages, or we could make use of the facilities of a local sports centre," Ms. Ndaruzaniye said.

She said the programme will include a sports doctor, who will conduct workshops and lectures on the importance of sports and following a healthy diet. Ms. Ndaruzaniye added that a physical education expert will conduct fitness tests.

"We emphasise sports and cultural activities for orphans because this will improve their quality of life as young adults. This sports programme aims to show youngsters the importance of leading healthy lives through proper nutrition and athletic exercises."

The FOC is a charity organisation which was launched in 1997, and according to Mr. Mudeinat, it gained momentum after His Majesty King Hussein's directive last year to ensure that orphans live happy and secure lives.

Sari Hamdan, FOC sports coordinator, told the Jordan Times that twelve local schools will participate in an interschool fund-raiser on May 8.

"It all depends on the funds we are able to raise. The more funds we raise, the more possibilities we will have for a comprehensive sports programme," he stated.

## Divisions delaying alternative elections law — opposition leader

By Francesca Ciriaci  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The opposition is divided over the formula that their alternative elections law should introduce to replace the one-person, one-vote system advocated by the government, sources within opposition said.

The 13 parties in the Higher Committee for Coordination Among the Opposition (HCCAOP) will need "at least one month" to decide upon one of the three alternatives they are currently discussing, one opposition leader told the Jordan Times, asking not to be named.

However, Deputy Mohammad Oran, who currently holds the rotating chair of the HCCAOP, maintained that all opposition leaders, from the Islamists to leftists and nationalists, have "agreed to agree" and come up with a unified proposal for the next parliamentary elections, scheduled for 2001.

The HCCAOP announced its determination to draft a "shadow" elections law following

the publication last month of a draft prepared by the Ministry of Interior and currently being reviewed by the Prime Ministry.

Acting Prime Minister Abdullah Ensour, however, responded earlier this week by saying that all political forces were welcome to join the national debate over the elections law, but all proposals must follow "constitutional channels."

The opposition accused the government of "bluffing," saying that its draft included "only minor administrative changes," while retaining the one-person, one-vote system.

The three possibilities being discussed by the opposition include: going back to the electoral system that governed the 1989 elections, which allowed each voter to cast as many ballots as the number of deputies to be elected in his/her constituency; a three-vote system, which would give each voter the possibility of casting three ballots, regardless of the number of seats allocated to that constituency; and the introduction of a proportional system.

The last possibility, which was at the centre of a proposal forwarded by the opposition last year, has already obtained the consensus of the majority of opposition groups.

It would entail giving each political party, coalition, or tribal group a percentage of parliamentary seats equal to the percentage of votes it obtained in the poll.

But some leaders have objected that such a system would result in the dominance of tribes, as political parties are still not developed enough to work out coalitions among them and still need to expand their following.

"I have already run three times in the elections. I know how things work," said one opposition leader. "A proportional system would not change anything," he added, asking not to be named.

The government of Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali and the opposition have locked horns over the controversial one-person, one-vote system since it was introduced by Royal Decree a few days ahead of the

1993 general elections.

The government has maintained that the one-person, one-vote system is more democratic than the previous multiple-vote system, as it allows all voters to cast one ballot, regardless of how many seats their constituencies are allocated.

But the opposition parties, led by the powerful Islamic Action Front, have insisted that the formula encourages tribalism at the expense of political parties' representation in Parliament.

Nine of Jordan's 13 opposition parties boycotted last year's general elections, citing the one-person, one-vote system as one of the main reasons behind their decision.

Some leaders of the four opposition parties which took part in the elections said they doubted their parties would run again under an elections law similar to the current one.

"It is early to say, and we will consult our base on such an issue," said Dr. Oran. "But I am almost sure that nobody would run again under these same circumstances."

## Police continuing search for family of abused child

By Rana Hussein  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Police on Tuesday said they were still looking for the family of an eight-year-old girl who on Monday sought refuge at a newly established state centre with burn scars all over her body.

The child, identified by officials only as Abeer, told medical examiners at the Family Protection Unit that her father tortured her by whipping her and placing hot objects on different parts of her body.

The victim, who lived with her father and stepmother at the Hussein Refugee Camp, said she escaped from her home and took a bus to Zarqa, where her mother resides.

Doctor Hani Jahshan, who examined Abeer on Monday, said the child suffered from burns to her back, arms and legs caused by objects such as a lighter and a hot fork. "The child also informed us that her father whipped her with electrical cords and stepped on her back," Dr. Jahshan told the Jordan Times.

According to an official source, preliminary investigations indicated that the parents of the child have been divorced for the past

six years, during which time the child lived with her mother. However, she recently remarried, "and the child had to live with her father and stepmother."

"Our investigations indicate that the father beat up his child because he did not want her living with him in the same house," the source said.

A police official at the unit told the Jordan Times Tuesday that the unit, which is operated by the Public Security Department (PSD), has issued an arrest warrant for both the father and the stepmother.

"We are also looking for the mother of the child, but still we are unable to locate their whereabouts," the police official said.

The unit, which began receiving cases in September 1997, is staffed by police officers specialised in the fields of sociology, psychology, and law to investigate crimes committed within the family such as rape, incest, physical abuse and threats.

A recent PSD study indicated that 2,500 crimes, including murder, attempted murder, abduction, severe injury, molestation, rape and manslaughter, were committed against minors in the Kingdom between 1993 and 1996.

## Court upholds death sentences against eight for 1993 double murder

By Rana Hussein  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Criminal Court Tuesday upheld death sentences handed down to eight people in October 1997 after they were found guilty of bludgeoning a man and his son to death during a brawl in the Wadi Seer area in October 1993.

Ahmad Mohammad, 27, Ahmad Salim, 24, Yasser Mohammad, 20, Sa'id Mahmoud, 24, Eid Mohammad, 29, Mohammad Khalil, 60, Mahmoud Khalil, 55, and Mifdi Khalil, 70, all from the same family, were sentenced to death by the Criminal Court for the premeditated murder of Salim Salameh, 49, and his 20-year-old son, Jamil on Oct. 20, 1993.

In March, the Court of Cassation returned the case to the Criminal Court for resentencing, stating that "not all eight defendants participated in the murder."

But the Criminal Court, headed by Judge Mohammad Ajameh and including Judges Mifleh Mubaidin and Issa Hamdan, upheld its previous sentences.

According to court transcripts, the defendants with

the victims and their family over a piece of land in the Wadi Seer area four months prior to the incident.

The court stated that the eight defendants met on Oct. 19, one day before the incident, and planned to lure the two victims to a garage to beat them with sticks and rocks.

On the evening of the murder, the court maintained, the defendants surrounded the two victims to meet with them to discuss their feud.

"When the two victims arrived, the defendants surrounded them and beat them with rocks and wooden sticks until they died," the court said.

The court quoted Mahmoud Khalil, one of the defendants, as stating that his family decided to exact revenge on the victim's family because of the continuous fights, "and because he couldn't forgive the harm caused to his teeth by Jamil Salim in a previous fight."

A judicial source informed the Jordan Times that a nine-judge tribunal from the Court of Cassation will review the new Criminal Court decision before issuing a final ruling in the case.

## what's going on

### EARTH DAY CELEBRATION

\* Earth Day celebration at the American Center, Amman (10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.). The programme will examine how the Internet can link us together in support of the environment. Videos highlighting the Earth's wonders and the urgent business of preserving them for future generations will also be screened.

### FILMS

\* Spanish film "Mommy's y Taram" at Instituto Cervantes, Jabel Amman on Thursday, April 23, at 5:00 p.m.  
\* "Jurassic Park" at the American Center, Amman on Thursday, April 23, at 5:00 p.m.  
\* "The Other Face of the Form" (in English) about artist Nicolas de Stael with commentary in Arabic by Dr. Mazen Asfour at Darat Al Fumun, Jabel Weibdeh on Thursday, April 23, at 6:00 p.m.  
\* Children's film "Carry On... Abroad" at the British Council, Jabel Amman at 5:00 p.m.  
\* German film "Der amediansche Freund" at Goethe-Institut at 7:00 p.m.

### CONCERT

\* Classical music concert by Austrian children at the Royal Cultural Centre on Thursday, April 23, at 8:00 p.m.

### DIALOGUE

\* Monthly dialogue with Dr. Mohammad Jaber Al Ansari, dean of Higher Education at the Arabian Gulf University in Bahrain, on "Arab Crisis in Thought and Status" (in Arabic) at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation, Jabel Amman at 6:30 p.m.

### EXHIBITIONS

\* An exhibition at the Ablyyah School for Girls, Jabel Amman (Tel. 4624872), until April 25.  
\* Works by Yassin Al Mohamadawi at the Orient Gallery, Shmeisani (Tel. 5681303/4), until May 7.  
\* Private collection of Jan Kassay entitled "Flowers Series" at the Jordan River Designs Project showroom, Jabel Amman (Tel. 4613081/2), until April 22.  
\* Photographic exhibition entitled "A Tour in the Dead Sea" by Janssen and Savignac at the French Cultural Centre, until April 30.  
\* Paintings by Lebanese-American artist Etel Adnan entitled "Artist's Book of Art and Poetry" at Darat Al Fumun, Jabel Weibdeh, until May 21. Also displaying works by Berlin-based Syrian artist Marwan Bashti entitled "A Suite of Heads" and works by contemporary Arab artists.  
\* Works by Maurice Haddad at Hammurabi Arts Gallery, Gardens Street (Tel. 5536098), until April 22.

## Argentinian woman issues appeals over children brought to Jordan

By Amy Henderson  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — An Argentinian woman is appealing to Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor, Jordanian authorities, U.S. First Lady Hillary Clinton and several international organisations to reunite her with her children, whom she claims were abducted from Guatemala by her Jordanian husband.

In a letter to international organisations, Gabriela Arias Urburu, 33, said it was "absolutely necessary that the corresponding authorities take action under the Convention on the Rights of the Child, to which Jordan and Guatemala are signatories, and it is imperative that the children be returned to their mother in accordance with the 'natural right', which was violated by a unilateral decision of the father."

"It is my openly expressed wish that [our] children keep close contact with their father in order to receive the care, love

and affection and the best of both of their cultures," she wrote. "The best solution for [our children's] well-being is that, within a fair and mutually agreed arrangement, the children should go back to Guatemala, where they were born, have grown and have been educated."

The first and last word she received concerning Karim (five years), Zahira (four years) and Sharif (two years) — missing since Dec. 10 — was on March 21 when Argentine Ambassador to Syria Juan Pardo Argerich managed, through diplomatic contacts, to confirm that the husband and the three children were in Amman, and that the oldest two were attending school in the capital.

Ms. Arias Urburu claims her husband, Imad Mahmoud Shaaban, abducted their children from their Guatemala residence on Dec. 10 after a Guatemalan family court judge granted her custody of the children one day earlier.

Sources in Argentina told the

Jordan Times that Mr. Shaaban then filed a claim against Ms. Arias Urburu two days later, claiming to a juvenile court that the mother's affiliation with a "sect" had endangered the children's well-being, and gained provisional custody, but the court later repealed the resolution after Mr. Shaaban failed to appear before the courts on Dec. 16.

The juvenile court, according to the Argentinian sources, also petitioned the Department of Justice and the Guatemalan police to search for the three children and return them to Ms. Arias Urburu. The prosecutor issued an arrest warrant for the father on Dec. 18.

Several diplomatic appeals and attempts to meet Shaaban family members — an effort spearheaded by Ms. Arias Urburu's father, Argentine ambassador to Guatemala, and backed by Argentinian and Guatemalan diplomats both in the Middle East and South America — have been thwarted, according to the sources, who said they also

received word that Mr. Shaaban was seeking custody of the children in Jordanian courts.

Jordanian Honorary Consul of Guatemala Nadim Khoury said he was presently unaware of the status of the court case or of any official intervention in the matter. Several attempts by the Jordan Times to contact Mr. Shaaban and his lawyer yesterday were unsuccessful.

An informed source in Amman told the Jordan Times that the Argentinian ambassador to the U.N. in March met Jordan's ambassador to the U.N., Hassan Abu Nameh, who said that the government would do "whatever possible to help from a humanitarian dimension" and that "if Ms. Arias Urburu comes to Amman, the government will ensure access to the children according to the law."

"The case is before the court," he said, "and when the court rules on the issue, the law will be implemented. But as the case is before the court, there can be no further interference. The govern-

ment, however, will provide humanitarian assistance and guarantee [Ms. Urburu's] rights according to law."

"We should be very careful in speculating on this story," said the source. "This is a very emotional issue — for the father, the mother and the children."

A prominent lawyer said it is likely that the court will grant the father custody of the children.

"I am not aware of an extradition treaty with Guatemala. Therefore, the [actions of the father] must be described by a Jordanian court as kidnapping before this is considered a crime," he said. "And if the father is Jordanian and Muslim, then Sharia [Islamic law] has jurisdiction and any decision is legal and enforceable."

"If the mother isn't Muslim and is not residing in Jordan, custody usually automatically goes to the father," he explained. "The mother, even if she is Christian, can have custody if she resides here until the children are of a certain age."



## Russian Duma sets showdown date with Yeltsin as left digs in

MOSCOW (AFP) — Russia's parliament has scheduled for Friday a showdown with President Boris Yeltsin over his nominee for prime minister Sergei Kiriyenko, giving the Kremlin three days to win over an implacable Communist opposition or else call fresh elections.

The state Duma decided Tuesday to hold the decisive third confirmation vote on Mr. Kiriyenko Friday, speaker Gennady Seleznyov confirmed. Russia will then either gain a new prime minister or face an early legislative election.

Mr. Kiriyenko, who garnered just 143 and 115 votes in two previous ballots by the Duma on his candidacy, needs 226 votes to secure confirmation. But whereas both president and parliament had little to lose in the first two votes, Friday the stakes will be far higher.

Under the Constitution, if parliament rejects the president's candidate three times, the head of state is obliged to dissolve the Duma and call fresh elections.

Gennady Zyuganov, whose Communist Party has firmly opposed Mr. Kiriyenko since the young

technocrat emerged as Mr. Yeltsin's new protégé a month ago, repeated Tuesday that his deputies will oppose the nominee and had nothing to fear from early elections.

Speaking in Krasnoyarsk, where he is lending his weight to the Communist candidate in upcoming gubernatorial elections, Mr. Zyuganov said his 134 deputies would once again exercise their "king-maker" potential against Mr. Kiriyenko.

Mr. Zyuganov said elections "could be useful for the country" as they would return a Duma with 90 per cent of its deputies opposed to the government, ITAR-TASS reported.

Mr. Zyuganov's Communists, who with their leftist allies in parliament can muster some 213 seats in the 450-seat chamber, have emerged as the crucial bloc in Friday's vote. The other factions in parliament are likely to be split fairly evenly, with a slight bias towards Mr. Kiriyenko, analysts say.

But for all the Communists' hostility to the candidate, analysts believe the party has little real inter-

est in casting a vote which would dissolve the Duma. Rather, they are engaged in some muscle-flexing to persuade the Kremlin to cede power and influence to the leftists.

"The Communists are first oriented towards stability and against elections, but they want something out of this situation," said independent analyst Sergei Markov.

"The Kremlin, however, has taken a very negative attitude towards deputies and thinks it can buy their votes very cheaply."

"Zyuganov is trying to secure a compromise to preserve stability, but the Kremlin is giving very little away," Mr. Markov added.

The Communists are due to decide their position at a special plenary session of the parliamentary bloc Thursday.

The tense stand-off between president and parliament was touched off on March 23 when Mr. Yeltsin sacked the government of Viktor Chernomyrdin and appointed the little-known Kiriyenko to draw up a new economic programme and cabinet.

Parliament argued that

with less than a year's experience of government, Mr. Kiriyenko was unqualified for the premiership.

The repeated rejection of the candidate set up Friday's decisive vote and a showdown not seen in Moscow since Mr. Yeltsin sent tanks in to crush the previous Soviet-era parliament in October 1993.

Mr. Chernomyrdin for his part was quoted Tuesday as saying he was opposed to the dissolution of the Duma and early elections in the event Mr. Kiriyenko is rejected as his successor.

"I am totally opposed to the dissolution of the Duma," Mr. Chernomyrdin told the business daily Kommersant. "Can you imagine how much money early elections would cost? We simply do not have such money now."

"We suffered so badly from the Asian financial crisis and from the drop in oil prices."

"There are holes in the budget as it is. If we start with more elections on top of that it will not simply be a diversion of financial means, but everyone and everything," the former premier added.

## Cash-strapped Khmer Rouge said ready for settlement

SURIN, Thailand (R) — Cambodia's Khmer Rouge, facing an acute shortage of money and supplies, may be ready to strike a peace-deal with the government, an associate of Khmer Rouge leader Ta Mok said Tuesday.

Die-hard remnants of the notorious guerrilla group have fled thousands of followers from their former northern base at Anlong Veng to the Dongrek Mountains bordering Thailand. They are cornered and running low on supplies, Thai military sources said.

"Ta Mok said all the Khmer Rouge leaders are ready to deal and cooperate with Phnom Penh if the government proposes acceptable conditions," a long-time business associate of Ta Mok said.

Ta Mok is demanding the right to self-administration in the Anlong Veng area of northern Cambodia, the associate said.

The Cambodian government said last week it wanted to bring Ta Mok to trial for his role in the 1975-79 "killing fields" government of former Khmer Rouge chief Pol Pot when an estimated 1.7 million people were killed.

Pol Pot died in rebel-held territory in northern Cambodia last Wednesday. The government also said it wanted to bring Pol Pot's long-time right-hand man Nuon Chea and Khmer Rouge political chief Khieu Samphan to trial.

In Phnom Penh, Defence Minister Tea Banh declined

to comment Tuesday on the state of negotiations with the Khmer Rouge.

"It's difficult to tell the result at the moment. The process is ongoing," Tea Banh told reporters Tuesday.

Clandestine Khmer Rouge radio, which is controlled by Ta Mok, Tuesday called for national reconciliation and for the past to be forgotten.

Former Khmer Rouge Foreign Minister Ieng Sary, who secured an agreement with the government in 1996 on autonomy for former rebel zones in western Cambodia, is acting as a peace broker between the Khmer Rouge and the government, Ta Mok's associate said.

Ieng Sary stepped in to help after Washington declared earlier this month that the United States wanted Khmer Rouge leaders to face trial, he said.

"Ta Mok is very optimistic that he can make a deal with the government," the businessman said.

The associate, who has been supplying food and medicine to the Khmer Rouge, said the Ta Mok faction was cash-strapped because Ta Mok had spent a huge sum supporting opposition forces in battles against the government after former co-premier Prince Norodom Ranariddh was ousted in a coup last July.

"Ta Mok is broke because he spent millions of baht (tens of thousands of dollars) and used a large amount of weapons to help

Ranariddh at O Smach, and he has admitted his mistake," he said, referring to a northwestern stronghold held by forces loyal to Prince Ranariddh.

Logging, a lifeline for the Ta Mok faction, has halted since the government began its latest offensive but Ta Mok still had stockpiles of felled timber ready for sale, he said.

"The last hope for Ta Mok for financial support is 60,000 cubic metres of logs," the business associate said.

The timber, felled last year, has been stranded since Thailand closed border checkpoints. Ta Mok has reinforced a guard on the logs, he said.

About 15,000 Khmer Rouge family members and followers fled from Anlong Veng to the border opposite Thailand's Saepai village. Many are being forced to sell cattle and personal belongings to Thai villagers in return for food, Thai army sources said.

The Thai army estimates about 1,500 Khmer Rouge fighters remain, while the Cambodian government places rebel numbers at about 200 to 300.

A senior Thai military officer said though low on supplies the Khmer Rouge were still capable of holding out for some time.

"They don't have to worry about food supplies. The Khmer Rouge are jungle people. They can survive on jungle products and supplies from their supporters in the villages," the Thai officer said.

## President Havel undergoes more surgery

INNSBRUCK, Austria (AFP) — Czech President Vaclav Havel underwent a second operation in a week Monday night, when doctors removed a small abscess from his abdominal lining, physicians said Tuesday.

Doctors said earlier Monday that his respiration had improved following treatment for the bowel problem and treatment to clear his bronchial tubes, but that he remained in a drug-induced sleep to boost his recovery.

Mr. Havel, 61, was rushed to hospital in Innsbruck last Tuesday with a perforated intestine while holidaying in the Austrian Tyrol.

A former heavy smoker, he has been hospitalised several times since an operation to remove a cancerous tumour from his right lung in December 1996.

Doctors treating the former dissident, who became the Czech Republic's first non-Communist president after the country's so-called Velvet Revolution in 1989, said Mr. Havel had responded well to weekend treatment.

The physicians said Mr. Havel's lungs were "well-ventilated" and noted that there had been a "global improvement in the respiratory system" while other organs were "stable."

## Judge orders courtroom reconstruction of Diana's last hours

PARIS (AFP) — The judge probing the accident which killed Diana, Princess of Wales, is to convene a courtroom reconstruction of the tragedy in a new bid to plug gaps in the inquiry.

Judicial sources said Hervé Stephan will hear evidence from around 20 key witnesses to the August 31 crash, but not the sole survivor of the accident, Trevor Rees-Jones.

The day-long hearing on June 5 will try to piece together the final hours of Diana's life, from her arrival in Paris on August 30 to her treatment by emergency services.

Press photographers pursuing the car in which Diana and her companion Dodi Fayed were travelling will also be called to testify, Diana, Dodi and Henri

Paul, the chauffeur of the Mercedes car, all died in the high-speed crash in the Pont de l'Alma tunnel a few minutes after leaving the Ritz Hotel.

However Christian Cutil, a lawyer for Rees-Jones, denied a report in Le Parisien daily that Dodi's bodyguard was among those summoned to appear.

He has already given evidence several times, but remembers little of the actual accident, in which he was seriously injured.

Le Parisien, quoting a lawyer involved in the inquiry, said Mr. Stephan wanted to stage a reconstruction on the scene of the tragedy itself, but was advised against it because of traffic congestion.

Mr. Stephan has already taken evidence from all the

witnesses and has studied police and medical reports, Diana's personal medical file and statements from other witnesses.

However possibly the most crucial piece of evidence, the alleged existence of a white Fiat Uno, remains a mystery.

Two witnesses have reported seeing a Uno at the crash scene, and traces of paint believed to have come from that type of car were found on the Mercedes, suggesting a collision.

But the Uno itself has not been traced, despite an extensive police search to determine whether it may have been to blame for the Mercedes crashing into a pillar in the tunnel.

So far, police have indicated the major cause was speed and that Henri Paul

had a blood-alcohol level more than three times above the drink-drive limit and had been taking prescribed drugs.

Another factor was the proximity of the pursuing photographers, who insist they did not see the crash and were some distance behind the Mercedes, all on motorbikes.

However witnesses have said the car was being followed closely by at least one motorbike, and there is also controversy over whether the cameramen tried to help the victims or were more concerned with taking photographs.

Mr. Stephan has ordered a detailed analysis of their phone calls, to find out who called the emergency services and determine where they were at the exact time



Colombian policemen and rescue workers try to extinguish part of an Ecuadorian military-run TAME Boeing 727 which crashed into the mountains outside Bogota shortly after take off April 20. Police and rescue workers said everyone on the plane was killed when it exploded after hitting the top of the Cerro El Cable mountain (Reuters photo)

## French PM to send investigators to Colombia plane crash site

PARIS (AFP) — Prime Minister Lionel Jospin announced Tuesday that he was sending a team of French investigators to Colombia where a Boeing 727 leased by Air France crashed, killing all 53 people aboard.

The plane crashed near Bogota shortly after take-off Monday, Air France said in a statement issued in Paris Tuesday.

The airline said the cause of the crash of flight AF 422 to Quito and the identity of the passengers were not yet known.

Mr. Jospin said the French teams would be leaving within the day for

Colombia. An Air France spokesman noted that the 39 passengers who boarded the aircraft belonged to the Ecuadorian airline TAME from an Air France Paris-Bogota flight included six or seven French citizens.

Others apparently came from Belgium, Britain, Denmark, Germany, Italy, Spain and Switzerland, though there was no certainty that these were their home countries, the spokesman said.

Two Colombians, a Honduran and a Swede boarded in Bogota, according to Antoine Pussian, the Air France representative in

Colombia. All the crew members were Ecuadorian. TAME gave the number of dead as 61, but Air France said this included eight passengers who had made reservations but did not take the flight.

Air France said it had made the necessary arrangements in Bogota and in Europe to alert the relatives of the dead and fly those who wished to Colombia. A 24-hour telephone line — (33) 1 43 37 31 50 — had also been opened.

The company said it would do everything in its power to assist the bereaved.

## Ireland scraps controversial passports-for-sale scheme

DUBLIN (AFP) — A controversial passports-for-sale scheme whereby wealthy foreigners could buy an Irish passport in exchange for one million punt (\$1.4 million) and investment in job-creating industry has been scrapped by the Irish government.

But the decision was criticised Tuesday by the Irish Small and Medium Enterprises (ISME) group which said the scheme had helped maintain thousands of jobs in industries which had benefited from foreign investment as a result.

The scheme has seen millionaires from the U.S., Hong Kong, the Middle East and central Europe gaining Irish passports and thus the right to live and work in the European Union.

John Dorrance, the U.S. Campbell's Soup heir, who was named last week as Ireland's richest person with an estimated fortune of 1.46 billion punts (\$2.04 billion), bought an Irish passport in 1994.

The scheme has been under review following a row last year about the cir-

cumstances in which 12 passports were handed over by former Premier Charles Haughey to Saudi Arabian banker Sheikh Khalid Bin Mahfouz, eight other Saudis and three Pakistanis in 1990.

A department of justice investigation found there were "errors and discrepancies" in procedures and a significant part of a 20 million punt (\$28 million) investment involved has not been traced.

The scheme came to prominence in 1994 with a political row over passports granted to two members of a wealthy Palestinian family, the Masris.

They purchased the passports in return for an investment in C D Foods, the family pet-food business of Albert Reynolds, who was prime minister at the time

the passports were granted to the Masris, the owners of a substantial farm and trading business in Saudi Arabia.

Justice Minister John O'Donoghue said that he would process outstanding applications from wealthy individuals using tighter guidelines in place since 1994.

The ISME said the scheme should have been kept and elements of it corrected. "Rather than do that they have thrown out the baby with the bath water," a spokesman said.

"Companies depended on political patronage to get the money. It was a secretive sort of escapade all the time. We asked for it to be opened up but rather than open it up, it has been abolished."

## Police look at new evidence on missing U.S. divers

BRISBANE (R) — Australian police are investigating new information suggesting that two Americans who went missing off the Great Barrier Reef may have staged their own deaths, newspapers reported Tuesday.

Sydney's Daily Telegraph newspaper reported that police were extending their investigation to look at information suggesting that Thomas Lonergan, 33, and his wife Eileen, 28, may have staged their disappearance at the famous nature spot.

A spokesman for Queensland state police confirmed that police had received and were investigating new information, but said he could not vouch for its accuracy at this stage.

"Police in Cairns have received certain information and that information is being investigated by police," he told Reuters. The Lonergans, both experienced and well-equipped divers from Baton Rouge,

Louisiana, were reported missing two days after a scuba-diving trip with 24 others in late January.

They were not among the divers who returned from the reef, about 70 km north-east of Port Douglas on Australia's far northeast coast, even though a headcount was said to have been done and a log book filled by the divers.

The newspaper reported that police were investigating reports that another dive boat skipper believed he heard American voices on his boat during its return from the same reef the day after the Lonergans disappeared.

Skipper Mike Rose also said his headcount of the boat's passengers before its return journey was three over the original tally.

There were pontoons on which the Lonergans might have taken shelter only a few km from where they were diving. Police were also investigating reports that Thomas

## China warns dissident Wang Dan against returning

BEIJING (AFP) — China Tuesday warned its leading dissident Wang Dan against returning to the country, indicating he could be thrown back in prison.

Foreign ministry spokesman Zhu Bangzao also rejected suggestions of an accord with the United States over the release Sunday.

Mr. Zhu indicated that Mr. Wang risked being put in prison again if he returned before his current 11-year jail term expires in 2006.

"Before he went abroad, he had not finished his prison term," said the spokesman.

"So if he wants to stop the period of medical treatment abroad and apply to return to China, our judicial departments will handle this case according to the relevant laws and regulations and he is well aware of this point."

Mr. Wang, 29, one of the main leaders of the 1989 Tiananmen Square democracy protests, was released Sunday on medical parole and sent into exile in the United States.

His family said that before his departure he had expressed the intention of returning to China after medical treatment and resuming his studies.

Doctors in Detroit have given the dissident a clean bill of health, saying he has no serious medical problems. Mr. Wang was to go on to New York Tuesday and give a news conference there Thursday.

The foreign ministry spokesman denied there had been any deal with the United States, whose president, Bill Clinton, is to visit China in late June.

"Every year, there are more than 10,000 prisoners in China who can have treatment and go out on medical parole. So there is no question of an agreement between China and the United States," the foreign ministry spokesman told a media briefing.

"Because Wang Dan had certain disease, our judicial departments allowed him to go abroad for treatment on medical parole. This is an issue within the jurisdiction of judicial departments in China."

"I don't know what kind of medical exam he had in the United States," added the spokesman. "If he gets well after going out, it's his own affair."

## Portuguese PM arrives in Beijing for Macau handover talks

BEIJING (AFP) — Portuguese Prime Minister Antonio Guterres arrived here Tuesday for talks with Chinese leaders ahead of the handover of Macau, the last of Portugal's overseas territories, to China.

Mr. Guterres, 57, met with President Jiang Zemin and Vice President Hu Jintao to discuss relations between the two countries and other issues of common concern, followed by a welcoming ceremony at the Great Hall of the People.

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The agenda will also include a recent visit of a Chinese official to Macau, which is planned on Monday, and a regular media briefing.

Mr. Guterres began his four-day visit in the eastern municipality of Macau, following a 10-day tour of China, which will end in Beijing on Tuesday.

The same time company's formula for Hong Kong's 1997 handover also applies to the eastern side of the island.

Mr. Guterres will also meet with Chinese officials and business leaders in Macau, which is planned on Monday, and a regular media briefing.

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## Media magnate Rupert Murdoch splits with wife of 32 years

NEW YORK (AFP) — Global media magnate Rupert Murdoch has split with his wife, Anna, after 32 years of marriage, a court case for divorce confirmed Tuesday.

The New York Post reported that Mr. Murdoch, 57, a former chairman and executive, and his wife, 54, were separating.

Mr. Murdoch, who is very wealthy, has been married to Anna, 54, for 32 years. They have four children, two sons and two daughters.

Mr. Murdoch's divorce is the latest in a series of high-profile separations and divorces among the wealthy.

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## Myanmar advoc for me

BANGKOK (AFP) — Myanmar's new president, San San, is expected to give an address to the parliament on Monday, a day after his inauguration.

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BEIJING (AFP) — Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qubai warned Tuesday that the Chinese government would not tolerate any form of aggression against its territory.

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## Portuguese PM arrives in Beijing for Macau handover talks

BEIJING (AFP) — Portuguese Prime Minister Antonio Guterres arrived here Tuesday for talks with top Chinese leaders likely to focus on next year's handover of Macau, the official Xinhua news agency reported.

He met with Premier Zhu Rongji during the afternoon to discuss bilateral ties "and other issues of common concern" following a welcoming ceremony at the Great Hall of the People.

He will also meet with President Jiang Zemin and legislative chief Li Peng before departing Beijing Thursday, foreign ministry spokesman Zhu Bangzao told a regular media briefing.

The agenda will also likely include a recent spate of violent crime in Macau, which is blamed on triads, or organised criminal groups.

Mr. Guterres began his China tour Sunday in the southwestern municipality of Chongqing, following a stop in Macau, which will revert to Chinese sovereignty on Dec. 20, 1999 under the same "one country, two systems" formula used for Hong Kong.

The prime minister also paid visits to the eastern cities of Shanghai and Suzhou before arriving in the capital.

Imperial China ceded Macau to Portugal in 1557.

## Media magnate Rupert Murdoch splits with wife of 32 years

SYDNEY (AFP) — Australian-born global media magnate Rupert Murdoch has split with his wife Anna Murdoch after 32 years of marriage, a spokeswoman for News Corp. confirmed Tuesday.

The New York Post reported that Mr. Murdoch, News Corp. chairman and chief executive, and his wife were separating.

Gossip columnist Liz Smith said the Murdochs were trying to work out their differences.

"It is with some personal sadness that I announce the amicable separation of Rupert Murdoch and his beautiful wife, Anna, after 32 years of marriage and three children," Ms. Smith wrote.

"The Murdochs say their situation is very painful and leaves them torn, but they are attempting to work out their differences."

Anna Murdoch, a novelist, believed she would remain on the News Corp. board, Smith said.

The spokeswoman in Sydney said there would be no formal announcement on the issue as it was a personal matter.



Singer Paul McCartney holds tight to his new bride, American divorcee Linda Eastman, as they make their way through screaming fans following their marriage in London in 1969. Linda McCartney died in Santa Barbara, California, April 17 (Reuters photo)

## McCartney scatters wife's ashes at family farm

LONDON (R) — Grief-stricken former Beatle Sir Paul McCartney has scattered the ashes of his wife Linda in the pastures and woodlands she loved at the family farm in southern England, British newspapers reported Tuesday.

The Times said McCartney had his American wife cremated in a brief and secret ceremony just hours after her death from cancer in California Friday. She was 56.

"Only Sir Paul and their four children were present after they decided not to tell even close family and friends until after the funeral," the newspaper said.

The Mirror said Paul McCartney and his children flew back to Britain in a chartered private aircraft Saturday carrying the ashes in an urn.

"They enjoyed the best days of their lives at their farm. It's where Linda wanted to be laid to rest," the Mirror quoted an unidentified family friend as saying.

Paul McCartney, who had spent only one night apart from Linda in their 29-year marriage, has been described by friends as "shipwrecked."

Linda McCartney died in Santa Barbara, California, after the breast cancer diagnosed in 1995 spread to her liver last month.

Paul McCartney has been closeted in the farmhouse home in the southern English county of Sussex, which he shared with Linda and from which she built up a successful vegetarian food business.

His spokesman appealed for privacy, saying Paul McCartney would not be making any statement until Thursday at the earliest.

He was at his wife's bedside when she died. The couple had been out horse-riding only two days beforehand.

The former Beatle has asked that instead of sending flowers, people could make a donation to cancer research or animal welfare charities — or simply "go veggie (vegetarian)," his office said.

Linda McCartney was a lifelong vegetarian who developed her own line of vegetarian foods. She was also a lover of animals, photography and music.

Throughout their life together she photographed her husband, campaigned with him for various causes and made music with him — from his immediate post-Beatle days to his most recent album "Flaming Pie," in which they sang together on some tracks.

Tributes poured in Monday to the woman who drove Beatles fans to tears when she married Paul McCartney in March 1969. She was an American socialite photographer, he the singer-songwriter in the most famous pop band in the world.

After the break-up of the Beatles, Linda joined Paul McCartney's new band Wings as a keyboard player and backing singer and braved taunts that she could neither play nor sing.

Their hits included the best-selling album Band On The Run. The group's single Mull Of Kintyre, recorded in 1977, is one of the world's biggest selling singles.

The United Nations said it would help remove land mines in Sri Lanka's former Tamil rebel citadel of Jaffna where many civilians have fallen victim to unexploded bombs.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) said it would send a demining expert to Jaffna, 400 kilometres north of here, within a week to set up a Mine Action Centre (MAC).

The MAC will work in cooperation with local authorities and civilians in the region, the U.N. said.

The UNDP chief here, Arve Ofstad, said the international community was ready to fund demining activities in Jaffna which was held by the rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) for five years till December 1995.

"Particularly the rural areas of Jaffna, the presence of a large number of land mines is a menace causing death to and maiming of innocent civilians — children and adults, men and women alike," Mr. Ofstad said in a statement.

He said the U.N. hoped to support ongoing demining activities in the former war zone, identify areas that needed to be cleared urgently and ensuring land was released for use by local people.

"A crucial part of the planning process will be the establishing of an activity time schedule with emphasis on rapid action while full adherence to U.N. sponsored international quality and performance standards for civilian mine action is ensured," he said.

Government forces have accused the LTTE of leaving behind a large number of land mines in Jaffna when they were driven out while the rebels have blamed the security forces for mine accidents involving civilians.

MAPUTO (AFP) — Senior South African foreign affairs official Robert McBride, arrested here on suspicion of arms trafficking, has been charged, his lawyer said Tuesday.

The lawyer, Albano Silva, told AFP that Mr. McBride was formally charged last Thursday, but said he was not clear of the precise details of the allegations since he had not been officially informed of the developments and was absent when they were read to Mr. McBride.

Mr. Silva said that by Tuesday morning, he had still not seen the documents pertaining to the charges.

Heavy secrecy has shrouded the case, and it could not be immediately established when Mr. McBride was due to appear in court.

The NLD under Nobel prize winner Aung San Suu Kyi won a 1990 election but the junta has refused to recognise the result.

She and seven other NLD members were originally sentenced to six years under the 1950 Emergency Provision Act.

An additional charge under the Secrets Act was laid after she refused to end her political activities, the ABSDF said in a statement released here.

No independent confirmation of the report was immediately available.

San San was sentenced to 20 years in prison for "high treason" in 1990 but released in 1992 under an amnesty, the ABSDF said.

She was dismissed from parliament after her first detention.

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## French ex-premier defiant in Rwanda probe, defends Paris role

PARIS (AFP) — A defiant French ex-Premier Edouard Balladur and three former cabinet members appeared Tuesday before a parliamentary team probing France's controversial role during Rwanda's genocide.

The commission has already heard incriminating claims about France's actions before and during the 1994 ethnic slaughter, including a charge that then officials must know who shot down a plane carrying Rwanda's President Juvenal Habyarimana, sparking the genocide.

However, the centre-right former prime minister objected to what he called "violent, biased, hateful" allegations against France, adding in his preliminary remarks that "this campaign arouses general indignation".

The death of Rwanda's elected Hutu head of state on April 6, 1994, led to the organised butchery of between 500,000 and 800,000 people by troops and militia forces of his regime, which had been supported by France.

In Mr. Balladur's eyes, France had in fact been "the only one to intervene to

keep the horror in check, alongside some African countries."

He was referring to French representations at the United Nations after the slaughter began and to the deployment in Rwanda of an intervention force dubbed Operation Turquoise, whose declared aim had been to set up safe zones.

Appearing with Mr. Balladur before the National Assembly commission were his Foreign Minister and successor Alain Juppe, ex-Defence Minister Francois Leotard, and former Cooperation Minister Michel Roussin.

Mr. Balladur pledged that he and his ex-government colleagues would try to contribute to the investigation's bid to shed light on events, but only from April 1993, when his team took office.

Socialist parliamentarian and former Defence Minister Paul Quilès is chairing the enquiry, tasked with looking into France's links with Rwanda from 1990 onwards. Mr. Balladur served as prime minister from 1993 until 1995 under the late Socialist President Francois Mitterrand.

Minerrand and his close entourage, including military aides, have been increasingly singled out as key reference points for the enquiry, which is due Wednesday to hear the late leader's son, Jean-Christophe Mitterrand, who had served as the head of state's onetime African affairs advisor.

Mr. Balladur Tuesday expressed his "surprise and reproach at the behaviour of those who, powerless to reestablish peace, incapable of saving the lives of Europeans in Kigali, and finally unable to stop the massacres or bring help to the martyred people, who now accuse the only country in the world which acted with the means at its disposal and overcame reticence."

On April 6, in an equally strong defence of France's political conduct at the time, Mr. Balladur stated that "the French army had no responsibility for the Rwandan genocide — quite the contrary."

A main aim of the commission is to seek to determine whether France supplied weaponry or other support to the extremists held responsible for the

genocide, which targeted minority Tutsis and moderate Hutus.

Opening the proceedings on Tuesday, Quilès had stressed: "We are not a court, we are neither judges nor lawyers. We want to know the truth."

This week, the parliamentary investigation moved into top gear, with at least 50 politicians and military brass due to be heard.

When the slaughter began, French troops were present in Rwanda, a former Belgian colony where Habyarimana had in 1993 signed a power-sharing deal with Tutsi rebels, who finally seized power in July 1994, halting the genocide.

Ex-Foreign Minister Alain Juppe stressed Tuesday that after the plane crash, in which Burundi's President Cyprien Ntaryamira was also killed, France called on the United Nations "to head an international enquiry... which never came off."

Indeed, on April 21, 1994, the U.N. Security Council unanimously decided to pull out most of more than 2,500 troops who had been in Rwanda mainly to monitor the 1993 pact.

## U.S., Britain secretly remove nuclear material from Georgia

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The United States and Britain, in secret negotiations, have agreed to remove nuclear material from a reactor in Georgia, to prevent it from falling into the wrong hands, the New York Times said Tuesday.

The highly enriched uranium and spent nuclear fuel — 3.99 and 0.78 kilos respectively — will be reprocessed at the Dounreay nuclear complex in Scotland, Western officials told the daily.

British Prime Minister Tony Blair approved the plan to store the material in Britain, the sources said. As part of the consultations, President Bill Clinton spoke with his Georgian counterpart Eduard Shevardnadze.

"It is a successful example of multilateral diplomacy to counter a proliferation threat," an unnamed senior Clinton administration official was quoted as saying.

"Code-named Auburn Endeavor, the removal operation has begun. American and civilian personnel are now in Tbilisi packaging the material," the source added.

The U.S.-British negotiations began late last year after the Russians failed to make good on promises to accept the nuclear material, the sources said.

Washington proposed removing the material two years ago and had hoped to enlist Russian help. The Georgian reactor was built outside Tbilisi in 1959 when the republic was part of the Soviet Union, and was shut down in 1986 after the Chernobyl disaster.

Concern over the fate of the Tbilisi reactor's nuclear material grew with an attempt on Mr. Shevardnadze's life in February, the sources said.

American officials feared the nuclear-bomb grade material could fall into the hands of Chechen gangs, Iran or other aspiring nuclear powers. Georgian experts also agreed the material would be more secure if removed from the Caucasus.

Private experts told the daily the material in the Tbilisi reactor could be used by a skilled bomb maker to make a one kilotonne nuclear device — equivalent to 1,000 tonnes of dynamite.

## Student demonstrators reject government-sponsored talks

JAKARTA (AFP) — Thousands of university students held rallies around the island of Java Tuesday to demand immediate reforms and reject government-sponsored talks held over the weekend.

More than 2,500 students rallied at Gajah Mada State university in Yogyakarta but restricted their protest to university grounds.

Some 100 wives of university staff members joined the rally to express their support for the students' cause.

The students called for political and economic reforms while rejecting the results of the meeting in Jakarta between cabinet ministers, army chiefs and student representatives whom the protesters said did not represent them.

Students from the University of Indonesia, Gajah Mada University and the Bandung Institute of Technology, the universities at the forefront of the student movement, stayed away from the talks.

In Surabaya, the capital of East Java province, a least 500 students from four universities there held a rally which drew hundreds of public supporters.

"There were so many of them, for sure there were at least 500 people students and later joined by a growing crowd from the public," a resident told AFP.

The protesting students condemned the government for failing to address the crisis or the subsequent economic hardships.

Monday, thousands of Indonesian students spilled onto the streets and held mass rallies in defiance of a government ban on demonstrations outside university campuses, reports said Tuesday.

In Surabaya, 5,000 students from six universities gathered at Putra Bangsa University Monday. Most had marched from their campuses under close police supervision. Some 5,000 students from four universities in Ujungpandang, South Sulawesi, also rallied on campus Monday before converging on the local parliament, where they urged legislators to call an extraordinary session of the national assembly to discuss the economic crisis, the Kompas daily reported.

They then marched to the city's main square under tight police guard, held a free-speech forum there then dispersed peacefully.

The students demanded the disbanding of the cabinet, appointed by the president last month, saying ministers had failed to address the situation.

In Medan, North Sumatra, around 3,000 students from North Sumatra's Muhammadiyah University held a rally to demand the repeal of two government decrees which they say curtail student freedoms.

In Bandung, West Java, some 200 students from Bandung Islamic University held a rally off campus to demand the resignation of Education Minister Wiranto Arismunandar, the Kompas said.

Mr. Arismunandar has called students political "amateurs" and said they should concentrate on learning.

In Banjarmasin, South Kalimantan, a number of lecturers joined students at the Lambung Mangkurat state university in a protest rally against corruption, collusion and nepotism, the Jakarta Post said.

In Yogyakarta, police prevented some 200 students from the Indonesian Islamic University from protesting at the palace of Sultan Hamengkubuwono X, the ruler of the traditional royal house in the area.

Around 10,000 students gathered at Padang, West Sumatra, at the Teachers University at rally featuring prominent government critic and Muslim leader Amien Rais. Several attempts by students to take their protests to the streets since February have resulted in violent scuffles with the security forces.

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In Bandung, West Java, some 200 students from Bandung Islamic University held a rally off campus to demand the resignation of Education Minister Wiranto Arismunandar, the Kompas said.

Mr. Arismunandar has called students political "amateurs" and said they should concentrate on learning.

In Banjarmasin, South Kalimantan, a number of lecturers joined students at the Lambung Mangkurat state university in a protest rally against corruption, collusion and nepotism, the Jakarta Post said.

In Yogyakarta, police prevented some 200 students from the Indonesian Islamic University from protesting at the palace of Sultan Hamengkubuwono X, the ruler of the traditional royal house in the area.

Around 10,000 students gathered at Padang, West Sumatra, at the Teachers University at rally featuring prominent government critic and Muslim leader Amien Rais. Several attempts by students to take their protests to the streets since February have resulted in violent scuffles with the security forces.

They then marched to the city's main square under tight police guard, held a free-speech forum there then dispersed peacefully.

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## S. Korea to give comfort women compensation

SEOUL (R) — South Korea's foreign ministry said Tuesday 152 surviving "comfort women", the former sex slaves of Japanese military sexual slavery, would each be given 38 million won (\$27,510) in compensation.

"The Korean government has decided to provide, out of its own resources, each remaining victim with 31.5 million won in an effort to help relieve their sufferings," a foreign ministry statement said.

"In addition, 6.5 million won raised by non-governmental organisations (NGOs) last year is also being provided to each of the victims," it said.

The 4.92 billion won package, which includes administration costs, was approved at a cabinet meeting chaired by President

Kim Dae-Jung Tuesday, a presidential spokesman said.

"The surviving victims of the former Japanese military sexual slavery... continue to lead miserable lives as they suffer from physical and mental pains even in the twilight of their lives," the foreign ministry statement said.

South Korea has demanded an official apology and compensation from Japan for forcing women, known euphemistically as "comfort women", into prostitution during World War II.

Japan has maintained the issue was settled in post-war treaties.

"We reiterate that a true future-oriented and mutually beneficial relationship... can be achieved only when Japan correctly recognises past history and remorse-

fully reflects on its own deeds," it said.

A foreign ministry official said the government was expected to start making the payments from late April or early March.

A South Korean civic group welcomed the move to provide support to the victims.



## Jordan Times

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## Wrong attitude is risky

IT APPEARS that the Iraq situation is once again in the news despite the deal that U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan had brokered with Baghdad last February. The international community sighed with relief then that at long last the military showdown which had seemed imminent was avoided. The initial news emanating from Iraq in the wake of the accord seemed to suggest that all was well and going smoothly as far as the implementation process was concerned. The various weapons inspection teams were conducting their work without any hindrances. The hitherto sensitive sites including the presidential palaces were entered and inspected in a satisfactory manner. The reports of the inspection teams gave Iraq a clean bill of health on the extent of its cooperation and also on the fact that all on-site inspections revealed nothing sinister about Iraq's weapons capabilities.

Yet all of a sudden when it was time to review the sanctions applied against the country by the U.N. Security Council, Iraq was asked by Washington to substantiate its assurances that it no longer had any mass destruction weapons. This sounded unreasonable, as it ran counter to logic and international norms. We would have thought that the purpose of conducting the prolonged inspections was to verify Iraq's destruction of biological and chemical weapons.

Otherwise what was the sense of going through the inspection routine if Iraq had been asked at the end of the line to prove its innocence?

Something is terribly wrong with the way Iraq is still being treated by the Security Council. This has to be said regardless of sympathy or the lack of it with the Iraqi regime and its record in dealing with its neighbours or even with its own people. But the international community has to be fair-minded in dealing with its situation. In the final analysis it is the Iraqi people who would have to pay for unjustified procrastination in lifting or at least relaxing the punitive sanctions being applied against the entire country.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

**Al Ra'i's** Fuhed Fanek attributed most of the economic ills facing Jordan at present to two factors: The continuation of the sanctions on Iraq and Israel's restrictions on the sale of Jordanian goods to the Palestinians. The writer said Iraq, the Kingdom's main trading partner is not able to buy Jordan's goods due to the trade embargo imposed on it since 1990. The writer also said Israel is making it impossible for Jordan to market its products in the Palestine self-rule area despite the agreements and the peace treaty. What is most unfortunate he said, is to see the Jordanian government unable to overcome these two obstacles which clearly are impoverishing the country. It is to be noted that the sanctions on Iraq are essentially imposed through the influence of the U.S. and the Kingdom's denial of Palestinian markets is of Israel's making although Jordan is friendly to the former and holds a peace treaty with the latter. The writer said the successive governments of Jordan have done all that they could to improve the economic situation but the efforts will remain in vain unless these two major problems have been resolved.

**Al Dustour's** Mohammad Daoud said the unemployment problem in Jordan remains at the top of the lists of dangers facing the Jordanian society as it has very serious consequences on the country's political, economic and social life. Despite the Ministry of Labour's efforts made so far to address this problem, only very few positive results have emerged at a time when an increasing number of college graduates are becoming desperate at not finding any jobs, he said. The problem of unemployment cannot be solved through convening a national conference to discuss the present situation but rather through practical and perhaps painful steps are taken towards substituting the guest workers with Jordanian job seekers or at least applying the present labour law which requires that 50 per cent of the workers in any establishment should be Jordanian, suggested the writer. He said the Ministry of Labour should also set a minimum wage system and this cannot be achieved by convening a conference but rather through passing rules and regulations worked out in cooperation between the private and public sectors. Instead of holding such a conference a practical formula is needed to guarantee the employment of the Jordanian workers to gradually take the place of the guest workers in Jordan.

## Washington Watch

# Battle of letters on Capitol Hill

By Dr. James Zogby

THE CLINTON administration's as yet unannounced, but much talked about, proposal to break the impasse in the peace process may only call for an inadequate 13 per cent Israeli withdrawal, but it has already created a war in Washington and deep divisions within the U.S. Jewish community. The Netanyahu government is making a determined effort to block the U.S. proposal and not only because they are resisting new withdrawals in the occupied territories.

As important to Israel is their determination that no U.S. administration be seen to dictate terms to an Israeli government. Since last fall, the Clinton administration has been struggling to end the crisis impasse in the peace process.

After a long pause in U.S. efforts, Secretary Albright visited the area in the fall and presented a set of U.S. principles to both the Israelis and Palestinians. She announced that that would be her last visit unless the parties were ready to accept the basic elements of the process and make a real effort to move it forward. Failing to make a break through during that visit, Albright said that she would give both Israelis and Palestinians a few weeks to decide and then meet with them in Europe. Her intention at that time was that, if the parties refused to accept the steps that the United States felt would advance the process, the administration would make public their proposals and let the world know why they had failed. When the European meetings failed to achieve results, the fateful U.S. announcement was then postponed until after both Netanyahu and Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat met with President Clinton in Washington.

That set of meetings also failed to secure an agreement (although by then it was fairly clear, though unstated, that the administration was finding Israel to be the guilty party). Yet the administration still hesitated to present the public proposal (to some extent due to the erupting scandals that were distracting all of Washington).

Throughout this period, in an effort to secure some form of Israeli movement in the peace process, President Clinton only used subtle forms of pressure. Always seeking to avoid a direct and public confrontation, for domestic political reasons, the president utilised several clever tools to make his point clear to Netanyahu and the Israeli public. For example, on one occasion, Clinton snubbed

the Israeli prime minister, refusing to meet with him. To make the point even more clear, just a few days later, Clinton opened the White House to a day-long celebration with former Israeli Premier Shimon Peres and Mrs. Leah Rabin, wife of slain former Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. On other occasions the president or his secretary of state used Israel's President Ezer Weizman or other prominent Israeli figures to send the message that Israel must honour the Oslo accords and that until that occurs relations with the prime minister would be cool.

But all the while President Clinton was using his little tricks to send his message, Prime Minister Netanyahu was plotting his revenge and some tricks of his own. Netanyahu's goal has been clear: To tell the president to back off and not pressure Israel into making further and deeper redeployments. By now Netanyahu has had months to prepare a counterattack. And attack he has. On April 3, a group of 81 U.S. Senators (out of 100) sent a letter to President Clinton insisting that there be no public announcement and that Israel not be pressured to do anything against its will. The letter, mimicking the line of the Netanyahu government, accuses the Palestinian Authority of stalling the peace process and not doing enough to control violence. The letter also sharply criticises reports that the president may use the public announcement to find fault with Israel. While the Senate letter and its companion letter from more than 150 members of Congress were supposedly independent initiatives, AIPAC (the American Israel Public Affairs Committee), the pro-Israel lobby, threw its full weight behind this intensive campaign to intimidate the U.S. president.

An AIPAC action alert called on supporters to "call your member of Congress today to sign these important letters before any [Clinton administration] plan is proposed...we must ensure that the government of Israel decides what is best for Israel's security, not the U.S. State Department."

At the same time, AIPAC used a weapon it ordinarily reserves only for major battles. It pushed its network of major campaign contributors to directly call members of Congress and insist that they sign the letters. Their heavy-handed effort, while quite successful in coercing a majority of Congressional representatives to sign on, has not been well received within the broader U.S. Jewish com-

munity and is most certainly not appreciated by the Clinton administration.

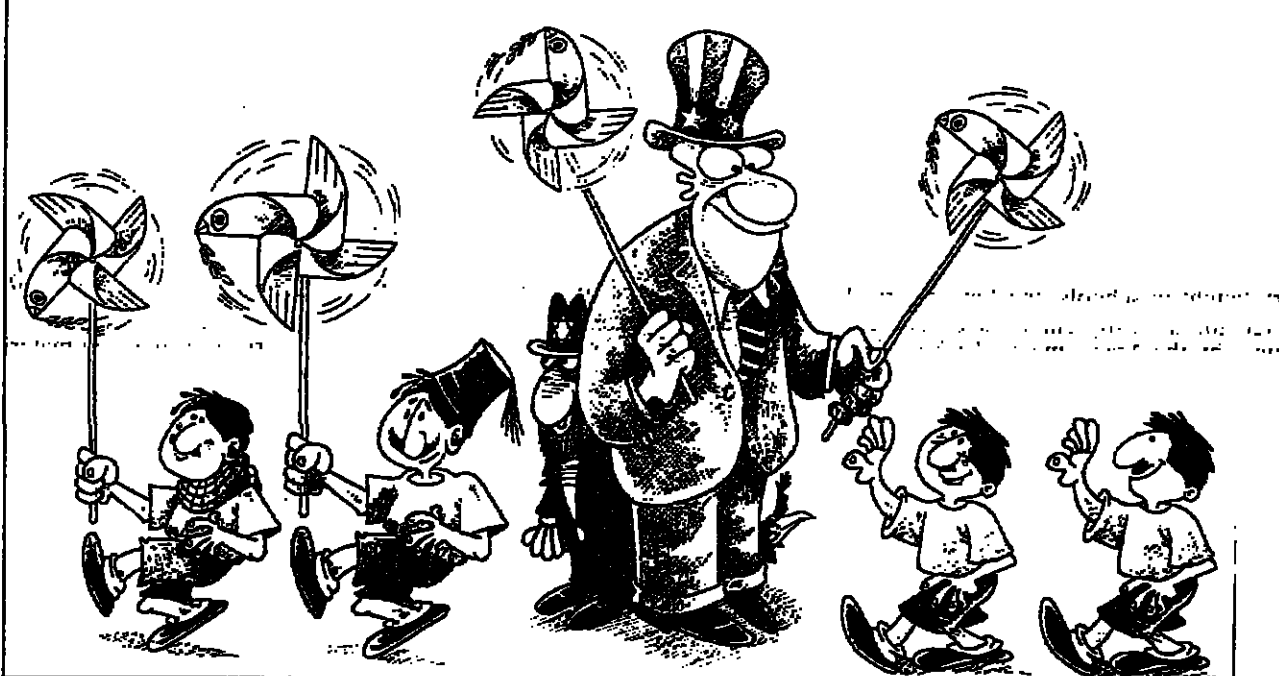
Most U.S. Jews support pressuring Israel (84 per cent support the U.S. applying pressure to both Israel and the Palestinians) and, among Jews, Clinton's popularity is double that of the Israeli prime minister. As a result, some Jewish groups attempted to organise a set of counter letters that were more balanced in their approach and more supportive of President Clinton's efforts.

One of those letters while only securing 33 signatures, did manage to obtain the endorsement of more than two-thirds of the Jewish members of Congress. And most major Jewish organisations, while not public in their criticism of AIPAC's intentions and tactics in securing endorsements for their letters, were plainly displeased. It's not clear how the "battle of the letters" will play out. What is clear is that AIPAC and their pro-Likud allies have obvious abilities to mobilise support for Netanyahu and against a U.S. president, even one as obviously supportive of Israel as Bill Clinton. At the same time, it is also clear just how deep the divisions within the Jewish community are.

A fax was sent last week to members of Congress who signed the pro-Clinton letter. The pro-Likud group that sent the fax threatened those who signed the "Clinton Whitewash letter" saying "they have signed their political death sentences." The fax noted that "those Jews in Congress who signed the Clinton Whitewash letter must be defeated in November 1998."

This battle between pro-peace and pro-Likud American Jews will only intensify in the coming year. What is also clear, is that in the short term these letters have at least, in part, accomplished their purpose. The administration proposal will not be presented any time soon. For now the president will avoid a direct confrontation with the Senate. When 81 senators speak, the president must at least listen. And so the administration will continue, as Secretary Albright noted last week, to pursue negotiations "privately without public disclosure of details." But as she continued, in a veiled threat, "if the parties remain at an impasse then, of course, we would have to make a judgement about how to proceed." But this, of course, is the same "judgement" we have all been awaiting since last fall.

M. KAHIL



## The unpunished genocide

By Gwynne Dyer

"To say that millions died is too much."

— Pol Pot, 1997

"Why should we flagellate ourselves for what the Cambodians did to each other?"

— Henry Kissinger, after Pol Pot's death

POL POT'S own Khmer Rouge burned his corpse last weekend as though it was so much rubbish, which is only fitting. But it hardly seems sufficient punishment for a mass murderer — and what is truly shameful is that none of his colleagues who did the actual killing are likely to be punished either.

There is no evidence that Pol Pot ever personally killed anybody, even though between a quarter and a third of Cambodia's population (up to 2 million people) were murdered in his four years in power. But then, Hitler never killed anybody in person either. Bush-league tyrants like Idi Amin did some of their killing in person, but the big-league killers with a programme have a more managerial style.

There's no point in seeking profound moral explanations for genocide. Hannah Arendt's famous phrase "the banality of evil" is half the answer. (She coined it after the trial in Israel of chief Holocaust administrator Adolf Eichmann, who showed no moral understanding whatever of what he had done, focussing exclusively on his bureaucratic functions.) And the other half is just — us.

We are who we are: higher primates living in groups that are evolutionarily programmed to loathe their neighbours. Among pre-civilised human groups, whether New Guinea Highlanders, Yanomamos in the Amazon, or pre-contact New Zealand Maoris, the chief cause of death among adult males is violence: either murder or war.

Over thousands of years the mass civilisations have slowly constructed moral and legal codes that curbed the

violence, at first within a given society and latterly even between societies. But these basic rules about the sanctity of human life are still a fragile construct, and if you put a society under enough pressure they can break down — which brings us to Henry Kissinger's role in Cambodia.

Cambodia had its own obsessions even before Kissinger's "realpolitik" dragged it into America's Indochina war. Cambodian nationalism was a wounded animal, resentful of the loss of half the national territory to Thai and Vietnamese neighbours in the centuries before the French colonialists arrived. That created the potential for an explosion.

Pol Pot, born in a village in Kompong Thom province but educated in the royal palace and in post-war Paris, was a potential trigger for that explosion. He combined Maoist methods with a racist xenophobia that ultimately led him to kill any Cambodian who had even had contact with foreigners (except for his own Paris-educated group). But not all triggers are pulled.

Without the U.S. intervention in Cambodia, Pol Pot would probably have ended his days as a privileged, tolerated loony on the fringes of polite Cambodian society (and a couple of million murdered people would still be alive). That is not to say that Henry Kissinger killed them, for he didn't (and neither, personally, did Pol Pot), but questions of responsibility do arise.

"If this doesn't work, it'll be your ass, Henry," President Nixon told Kissinger, his secretary of state, on the eve of the U.S. invasion of neutral Cambodia in 1970. The secret bombing campaign against Cambodia was already almost a year old then, and it continued to devastate the rural areas even after Washington's own man, General Lon Nol, was installed in power in Phnom Penh.

In one six-month period in 1973, B-52s dropped a greater tonnage of bombs on Cambodia than the total dropped on Japan in the World War II. That was what shattered Cambodian

society to the point that a genocidal monomaniac like Pol Pot could come to power in 1975, and spend the next four years "purifying" Cambodia of all foreign influences.

When Vietnamese troops drove Pol Pot from power in 1979, Washington came to the Khmer Rouge's aid in a vindictive attempt to win "the last battle of the Vietnam war," as an American official put it. American (and Chinese) support for Pol Pot kept Cambodia at war and cut off from foreign aid for another dozen years.

But it never was Henry's ass. It still isn't today, as he cruises from one consultancy to another, dismissing the "so-called bombing of Cambodia" as an irrelevant detail of a forgotten history. It was Pol Pot who ordained the exterminations, and other men and women who carried them out. But the chain of causation does not stop there, even if the number of Cambodian peasants directly killed by American bombs was only one or two hundred thousand.

Nobody will ever bring Kissinger to court over this: he will die old and rich in bed. Pol Pot was never brought to court either (to the great relief of many others who feared his testimony). Lesser killers like present Khmer Rouge leader Ta Mok ("The Butcher") and Ke Pauk (who organised the massacre of Muslim Cambodians) may one day face trial, but I wouldn't hold my breath.

Progress is being made in bringing the perpetrators of the other great genocides of recent years, in Bosnia and Rwanda, before international tribunals. It is a painfully slow process, but Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic may be arrested any day now, and the organisers of the Rwandan genocide are hunted men. Why is there no similar process in Cambodia?

There would be no international tribunal on Bosnia if Serbia could veto it, nor on Rwanda if France had the final say. In Cambodia, unfortunately, the main outside powers involved were the United States and China — and they do have the final say.

## LETTERS

### 'National right'

To the editor:

A COUPLE of days ago, while watching a televised press conference held in Jerusalem by British Prime Minister Tony Blair and his Israeli counterpart I was shocked by Mr. Blair's reaction regarding the death earlier of an Israeli settler in Yatta, near Hebron. While Benjamin Netanyahu characteristically sought to dramatise the killing of the settler as a cold-blooded murder, Blair's instant reaction in calling the incident "a terrorist act" was unjustified, to put it mildly.

After the conference, I did some research by accessing reports on it available on the Internet. I would like to share the results of that modest effort, hoping that it will somehow reach the British prime minister himself.

Israel designates a section along the southern border of the Hebron district, southeast of the town of Yatta, as a military area. On April 7, the first day of the Muslim festival of 'Eid Al Adha, the Israeli army issued orders to about 100 families living there to evacuate the area by April 12, Easter Sunday.

The people who live in this rugged, inaccessible terrain grow wheat where possible and raise goats and sheep. They have lived on these hills for generations and have land documents from the Ottoman period to prove it.

On a nearby hill there is a large house that was built six months ago by a lone settler named Dov. Dov used to release his horses among the Palestinians' wheatfields where they could graze on the young crops. Most of the Palestinians had been experiencing unpleasant encounters with Dov, including one man the settler drove his jeep into, beat up and left lying unconscious alongside the rocky lane.

Dov, who released his horses, built a large house on stolen lands and had "unpleasant encounters" with the Palestinians was, himself, beaten, stabbed, and shot to death by a group of 10 to 12 Palestinian shepherds, who were fighting to liberate their lands from this racist, Zionist colonialist who was supported by the Israeli government.

We call this action a national right of self-defence. If the British prime minister wants to join the Zionists and call it "terrorism," then we have to remind the British that we are no Red Indians and the Zionist settlers are no cowboys. We are all behind each and every Palestinian fighting for his right to protect his land.

Hazem Malhas  
 Amman

### Why under-appreciate?

To the editor:

I REFER to the letter published by the "rational western educated Jordanian," Freddy Lama (Jordan Times, April 20).

I regret to say that reading the letter made me ponder why anyone would want to under-appreciate the valuable (domestic and international) journalistic contributions of somebody of the high calibre of Mr. Lu'ayy Al Rimawi. And quite honestly, I couldn't understand the motive behind publishing such a letter which clearly lacks both substance and direction.

Personally, I don't think that it is Mr. Rimawi's fault if a reader makes a (spurious) issue of his alleged inability to understand a particular article. I found Mr. Rimawi's article well-presented, forward-looking and very interesting.

Mr. Rimawi should be warmly congratulated for his noted contributions inside and outside Jordan, and for professionally raising Jordan's legal profile in Britain. Moreover, I have personally always enjoyed reading his eloquent, analytical articles in the Jordan Times.

Fadia Saleem  
 New Jersey  
 USA

## Feature

## Netanyahu

## 'Jerusalem'

## will never

## redivide

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu

talks with Clinton about his hopes

of the heard that you and I, S. M.

James Ross have discussed a new

idea for the Palestinians to build a new

city near the Jordan Valley

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## Features

# Netanyahu: 'Jerusalem will never be redivided'

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu talks to Lally Weymouth about his hopes for peace

Q. I've heard that you and U.S. Middle East envoy Dennis Ross have discussed a new proposal: Allowing the Palestinians to build in certain Israeli-held areas near the Jordan Valley.

A. We're discussing a number of possibilities to bridge the gaps, but we haven't made any final determination. I think Ross saw a serious effort on the part of the Israeli government. There are two principles we believe are essential for peace. One is that the Palestinians fulfil the promises they gave us to fight terrorism and annul their covenant, and the second is that the U.S. recognise the need for Israel to determine its security needs and hence the area from which it will withdraw.

Q. What is your vision of peace with the Palestinians?

A. My vision is that at the end of the final settlement, the Palestinians will be able to have their own territory and the ability to govern themselves inside that territory but (with) none of the powers that could threaten Israel.

Q. In other words, they won't be able to have a defence capability?

A. They would be able to have local law and order capabilities, but they shouldn't be able to field a large army or to import weapons that could effectively neutralise Israel's defences.

Q. So, there will be no Palestinian state?

A. My opposition to the word "statehood" is because it tends to encompass those unlimited powers that could threaten Israel. I have no problem with the Palestinians running their own lives. Therefore, I envision a final settlement which is a balance of the Palestinians' need to run their own affairs and our need to protect Israel's security. I believe that this government can strike a balance and deliver an agreement which the overwhelming majority of Israelis can stand by.

Q. Your right-wing supporters oppose a deal that would hand over land to the Palestinians.

A. I made it very clear that if (Palestinian leader Yasser) Arafat and the Palestinian Authority keep their side of the bargain, we'll keep our side.

Q. Your relationship with the Clinton administration does not appear to be successful. Why?

A. It's had its difficult moments. Over the years we've had divided views between American presidents and Israeli prime ministers on Israel's security needs. We had Eisenhower and Ben-Gurion differing on the Sinai; Ford differing with Rabin during the reassessment in 1975; Reagan and Begin clashing over Lebanon.

Q. Do you and President Clinton have a fundamental difference?

A. In comparison to those disagreements, this is... a milder case.

Q. Is it true that the Palestinians only arrest terrorists when Israel presents them with intelligence?

A. They only act on a specific tip that we give them. For example, if we say that terrorist X, living on street Y in city Z, is about to launch a terrorist act against Israel, they'll pick him up. But they don't do systematic sweeps (and) interrogations. They're not making the difficult choice, which Egypt and Jordan have made. The choice is whom do you want to make peace with — Israel or the terrorists? It's one or the other, but not both.

Q. Do you have a vision of living in peace one day with the Palestinians?

A. Yes, I do... not one day, (but) soon. If Arafat accepts my offer to negotiate a permanent settlement, we could have a historic breakthrough with the one government that can deliver. I hope it happens during this term.

Q. What happens if Arafat unilaterally declares a Palestinian state on May 4, 1999, the original deadline for a permanent status agreement?

A. I wouldn't recommend unilateral action. Palestinian unilateral actions always run the risk of unilateral Israeli actions... Israel cannot be thrown back to the indefensible '67 boundaries and Jerusalem will never be redivided.

Q. Do you have any hope of a treaty with Syria?

A. Yes, I do. If Syria is less rigid about the conditions for restarting the negotiations. In any case we have decided that after 20 years of our stay in Lebanon, our objective is to withdraw once we have the necessary security arrangements.

Q. Turning to Israel's celebration of its 50th anniversary...

A. ... You never had worse odds for a people than the Jewish people had 50 years ago when we were at the abyss of death and destruction, when it seemed like you could never mobilise our will to live again. Yet within a very short time we established our independence in our ancient land, reunited our capital, revived an ancient language and produced one of the most advanced technological economies in the world.

We have begun to complete a circle of peace, first with Egypt and Jordan and soon, I believe, with the Palestinians and the Syrians and the Lebanese. I think this is more than the founding fathers of Israel could have imagined 50 years ago.

— The Washington Post

# Israel's history, viewed candidly, stirs a storm

By Joel Greenberg

**OCCUPIED JERUSALEM** — As a senior officer in Israel's Shin Bet security service, Gideon Ezra spent years coolly tracking down Palestinian militants, but in a Jerusalem television studio recently he lost his composure.

With other members of a studio panel, Ezra watched the latest episode of an Israel Television documentary about the country's first 50 years that has challenged the traditional Zionist tale of heroic return and nation-building in an empty, desolate homeland.

That week's chapter chronicled the blood-soaked conflict with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), featuring interviews with former terrorists and ending with an image of exultant PLO fighters and the strains of the Palestinian anthem, "My Country, My Country."

"What kind of pictures of bravery are these?" Ezra sputtered as he sat across from the director of the episode, Ronit Weiss-Berkowitz. "Is this the story we want to tell our soldiers and youth? She calls them Palestinian fighters. These are fighters? They're terrorists!"

The outburst by Ezra, now a member of parliament from the governing Likud Party, was typical of the controversy generated by the 22-part documentary series titled "Tkuma," or Rebirth, that has been broadcast weekly for the last three months.

The widely watched programme is an unvarnished historical account that replaces the traditional Zionist story with a variety of narratives, including the voices of Palestinians, Israeli Arabs and Sephardic Jewish immigrants resentful at their treatment by Israel's European-born establishment.

Produced by the Israel Broadcasting Authority to mark the country's 50th anniversary of independence, the series plumbs Israel's collective memory, challenging the founding myths and raising long-repressed questions about the nation's birth and the conflict with the Arabs.

According to the version of Israeli history taught in schools, the Jews returned to reclaim a mostly empty land but were fought by the Arabs, many of whom fled during Israel's war of independence when their leaders promised that they would

soon return when Israel was destroyed.

In the television series, the epic of nation-building is accompanied by accounts of expulsion, dispossession and killing of Arabs, and by monologues of Palestinians lamenting the loss of their country.

The scenes have set off a public debate echoing the deep political rifts in Israel, where history has been marshalled to forge a national identity and wielded as a weapon in the long struggle with the Arabs.

*Supporters of the programme reply that Israel at 50 is now mature and confident enough to face the troubling chapters in its past.*

Critics from the political right charge that the series questions the justice of the Zionist enterprise. Supporters of the programme reply that Israel at 50 is now mature and confident enough to face the troubling chapters in its past.

"There's still disagreement over what the past is, and perceptions of the past are constantly changing," said Gidon Drori, the executive producer and editor of the series. "We're dealing with unfinished business. The scars still haven't healed."

Tom Segev, an Israeli historian, said: "The justification for the State of Israel has been a certain interpretation of Jewish history, a Zionist interpretation. The minute you shake that, people get excited. History is more touchy than politics. Our past is more sensitive than our present."

Ariel Sharon, a hawkish cabinet minister and war hero who figures prominently in the series, charged in a letter to Education Minister Yitzhak Levy that the programme "distorts the history of the rebirth and undermines any moral basis for the establishment of the State of Israel and its continued existence." Sharon urged Levy to ban the series from schools.

Communications Minister Limor Livnat declared that she would not let her son watch the programme, and she wrote a letter to the broadcasting authority urging that the "post-Zionist" series be taken off the air.

Instead of showing the history of Israel "with a sense of pride and confidence in the historical justice that was done to the Jewish people," Mrs. Livnat wrote, the series "depicts the Palestinian side sympathetically, systematically distorts the great Zionist deed and causes severe and probably irreparable damage to our image."

"To my understanding," Mrs. Livnat added, "the Israeli public broadcasting channel is not supposed to show the propagandistic position of the Palestinians, while pushing aside all our myths."

The producers of the series, which was created by several directors and guided by a team of academic experts, acknowledge that they have produced a critical history, but they insist that they maintained a distinctly Israeli standpoint as they reviewed their country's triumphs and tragedies.

Yet there are scenes in the series that are bound to be troubling to Israelis brought up on historical accounts that have justified Israeli actions while glossing over the pain of the other side.

In one episode, an Israeli Arab stands in the ruins of his destroyed village, reciting a bitter poem about exile. Another man recalls that he felt "stabbed in the stomach" by the loss of his home that accompanied Israel's birth. "The traumatic memories of expulsion that occurred here and the deeply felt attachment to the homeland cannot be uprooted," the narrator says.

Other segments include unflinching accounts of massacres and incidents of indiscriminate killing of Arab civilians by Israeli forces in the early years of the state, using interviews with former Israeli officers and Arab witnesses to reconstruct the events.

"Showing 'Tkuma' forces us to deal with the moral dimension of the conflict and to remember facts that we would like to forget," Aryeh Caspi wrote in the newspaper Haaretz. "The anger at 'Tkuma' is because we don't want to know and we can't bear the sense of guilt. The establishment of the State of Israel was justice for the Jews, but it was accompanied by a terrible injustice to the Palestinians."

The episode which drew the ire of the Shin Bet officer also came under heavy fire from rightist critics because along with conversations with Israeli victims of terrorism, it included material from PLO films and interviews with men labelled Palestinian fighters, some of whom had

attacked Israeli civilians.

Yehoram Gaon, a popular Israeli singer who was the host of "Tkuma," resigned rather than present that segment. Mrs. Weiss-Berkowitz, the director, received death threats, and she was accused by Rehavam Zeevi, a far-right member of parliament, of serving the PLO.

"I saw this as an opportunity to break the monologue in which only we are in pain and nobody else," Mrs. Weiss-Berkowitz said of her film, which showed Arab victims of Israeli bombardments as well as Jewish casualties. "I thought that people can be generous and strong enough to listen to the crying of children and mothers from the other side."

The presentation of other narratives, which lies at the core of the series, reflects a process that began more than 10 years ago, when a few Israeli scholars began challenging conventional accounts of their country's history.

The "new historians" published studies that documented the expulsion as well as the flight of the Palestinians, the killing of Arab civilians in border skirmishes and retaliatory raids after terrorist attacks in the 1950s, and what the scholars described as missed opportunities to negotiate with the Arabs.

The alternative historical narratives are filtering into the Israeli educational system, where writers of a new Israeli history curriculum are planning to incorporate Palestinian and Sephardic Jewish perspectives on the history of the state.

For many Israelis, the series is a jarring encounter with those perspectives, and Drori, the executive producer, hopes that it will lead to soul-searching that he asserts will only strengthen Israeli society.

The critics of the series represent "parts of society that have not matured enough to take a more sober look at the past," Drori said.

"This series is a mark of maturity, and I doubt that something like it could have been produced by a television authority in another country," he said. "But I can't expect everyone to handle it, or that it will be easy to digest."

*"I saw this as an opportunity to break the monologue in which only we are in pain and nobody else... I thought that people can be generous and strong enough to listen to the crying of children and mothers from the other side." — 'Tkuma' episode director Ronit Weiss-Berkowitz.*

## Jewish solidarity split by cultural divisions

By Patrick Cockburn

WHEN JEWS belonging to the modernising Reform tradition opened a kindergarten last year in Mevasser Zion, a town west of Jerusalem, it was immediately gutted by fire. In the middle of the night somebody broke a window and threw burning liquid inside, which set light to the children's plastic chairs, reducing them to a puddle.

Nobody was arrested, but there were few doubts about who was behind the attack. Reform Jews are a small minority in Israel, although they number millions in the United States.

They have a strong secular tradition, are of Ashkenazi (European Jewish) origin and are usually well off. By contrast, the first Israeli inhabitants of Mevasser, who feel they are being shunted aside, were Jews from Morocco and Iraqi Kurdistan; their culture is religious and most work as truckers or in the construction industry.

Aliza Landau, who runs the kindergarten and is a Holocaust survivor, recalls how she had earlier gone to a council meeting at Mevasser to discuss obtaining land for a Reform synagogue. During a furious argument one of the opponents of the plan came up to her and shouted: "You are not a Jew!"

Another, showing how class and religious differences combine, added: "You sell pork in the shopping mall. We'll burn the shopping mall and we'll burn you, too."

The antagonisms run deep and the divide between secular and religious Jews, not the division between left and right, is at the heart of Israeli politics. The outside world only began to wake up to the strength of the animosity when Yigal Amir, a nationalist student at a religious university, assassinated Yitzhak Rabin, secular and Ashkenazi, the war hero of the early Jewish state, in 1995.

Just as the myth of Jewish solidarity was over-stated after 1948, so the consequences of ethnic, religious and social divisions between Jews may be exaggerated now. It is not that they are not deep, and in many ways getting deeper, but that the ability of Israeli Jews to unite in the face of a common foe, real or imagined, remains very great. Israelis are still willing to spend three years in the army and serve in the reserves.

Yet the melting pot has never entirely worked. This was less evident in the Fifties because political and cultural power was so firmly in the hands of the ruling elite, secular in culture, mainly originating in Russia and Poland. Oriental Jews, mostly from North Africa, had marginal influence. Real differences emerged more potently as they became partly integrated, better educated, developing political and religious vehicles to establish and defend their identity.

Israel has six identifiable sub-cultures: Ultra-orthodox or Haredi Jews in their 19th-century black coats; the national religious with strong support among the settlers of the West Bank; oriental traditional Jews from the Middle East; Jewish secular and elitist culture with its centre in the cities of Tel Aviv and Haifa; the Russian sub-culture following the arrival of 800,000 Jews from the former Soviet Union; and the Israeli-Arabs.

"There is virtually no intermarriage between the members of most of these sub-cultures," wrote

Baruch Kimmerling, professor of the sociology of politics at the Hebrew University. "Some even lack common sets of daily manners that would enable the sharing of a meal with one another. One can distinguish most of these sub-cultures from one another by the clothes they wear in daily life."

The differences go deeper than this. Groups have territorial bases; north (occupied) Jerusalem is increasingly ultra-orthodox; 40 per cent of secular Jews say they want to leave the city, the most common reason given being fear of the Haredi. Different groups have their own educational institutions; the national religious educate 250,000 students from kindergarten to university, the aim being to create an environment between ultra-orthodoxy and secularism.

For the first time in the last Israeli election in 1996, the prime minister and Knesset were elected separately. The result was that the voter could express his broader political views on how the state should be run in voting for the prime minister. But in the Knesset, the voter could vote for smaller parties, more expressive of his or her ethnic and religious identity. Thus Shas, a highly organised party with an ultra-orthodox leadership, appealed to oriental Jews and increased the number of its seats from six to ten.

Since it lost the election in 1977, the Labour party has been poor at putting together the dissonant but numerically powerful coalitions which has allowed Likud to form the government on every occasion except 1992. Labour was too used to holding power to share it. Its old religious allies were increasingly right wing and nationalist. In 1992 it only won the election through its appeal to the Russians but four years later it had almost no Russian candidates. Two of its bases of support, the kibbutzniks and the Israeli-Arabs, are deeply unpopular with the rest of Israeli society.

The mechanics of this diverse society are complex. For instance, the Russians have their own newspapers, watch Russian television and often consider the level of Israeli culture as being below that of Russia.

There are other sub-groups whose grievances may trigger violence. One of the most savage riots in Jerusalem in recent years came in 1996 when 10,000 Ethiopian Jews almost stormed the prime minister's office. They were enraged by the discovery that blood donated by Ethiopians to the national blood bank was always secretly discarded for fear that it might be infected by the HIV virus. Jews who came from Yemen are increasingly alienated by the belief that their babies were kidnapped when they arrived here after the war of independence.

How far do these differences erode communal solidarity as Jews and Israelis? Nobody quite knows the answer. The figure of Benjamin Netanyahu, the prime minister, is deeply divisive and he continues to be loathed by the secular left. When widespread fighting with Palestinians followed his opening of a tunnel under Jerusalem's Muslim quarter in 1996, many Israeli army reservists did not report for duty.

But there are countervailing forces. Suicide bombs may remind Israelis that there is no peace with the Palestinians, but they also ensure Israel's political and religious unity.

— The Independent

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## Daily Beat

A review of news from the Arabic Press

### National Aluminium Industrial Company registers JD3.7m in sales in first year of operation

**\*\* AN EXTRAORDINARY** meeting of the general assembly of the National Aluminium Industrial Company has approved a board of directors recommendation to lower the firm's capital from JD12 million to JD9 million. Board Chairman Hani Haj Hassan said the company was able to cover all its financial obligations and, as such, there was no need to have the firm's capital at JD12 million.

"The operational and financial situation of the company is good after the firm set up the plant with all its facilities and the factory is operating at full production capacity," Mr. Haj Hassan told the shareholders. Consequently, there is no need to pay the final instalment of the capital.

The company posted a JD3.7 million net sales in 1997, its first full year of operations as the plant started actual production at the end of 1996. Gross profit generated amounted to JD502,000, a figure that went further down to JD185,000 after accounting for administrative and other expenditures.

Mr. Haj Hassan expected 1998 profit to be better after the aluminium industries agreed on Thursday to specify the share for each industry in the local market following stiff competition between them that brought down the price of aluminium to break-even points.

The chairman said the agreement would lift up prices in the local market to provide the company with a good profit margin. In addition, he continued, the company was able to open new markets for its products. "An order is now ready at the factory's warehouses to be exported to the Yemeni market," he indicated. "The company has a big market in Palestine and is currently looking for deals in Libya and Belgium."

According to Mr. Haj Hassan, the aluminium industries in Jordan have become advanced and the Kingdom could be a centre for this industry in the Middle East and North Africa. "Although this industry is advanced in Europe, the aluminium manufactured in the Kingdom is equal to the quality of European aluminium and is distinguished in terms of price due to cheap labour costs."

The company has a maximum production capacity of 7,000 tonnes annually. The total capital of companies engaged in aluminium manufacturing is estimated at JD100 million.

According to the annual report, the company's assets at the end of 1997 totalled JD11.84 million of which JD3.75 million are current assets. Shareholders' equity totalled JD9.27 million at the end of last year (AJ Ra'i).

## Jordache plans to invest at Irbid's QIZ

By Ghaila Alul  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — U.S. denim-maker Jordache plans to open a joint plant with a local partner at the newly-established Qualifying Industrial Zone (QIZ) to benefit from a duty free status in American markets.

Jordache Inc. and Century Investment Group — a Jordanian public shareholding company with an estimated equity value of more than \$100 million — hope to export their casual wear to the United States and Europe by the end of 1998.

Century Chairman Omar Salah said the facility, to be built on a total area of 11,000 square metres, will provide 1,200 jobs to local workers.

"This factory will be the largest in the QIZ producing jeans for export mainly to the U.S. and to some European countries," he told the Jordan Times Monday.

Century is employing around 1,200 at its 12 QIZ-based factories, while Jordache Inc., with a \$700 million annual turnover, has 50,000 workers in plants operating in Kenya, the United States, Sri Lanka, the Philippines and Morocco.

Jordan and Israel, in the presence of U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, signed the QIZ agreement during the Middle East and North Africa conference in Doha in November to support the Arab-Israeli peace process.

The agreement stipulates that each of the Jordanian and Israeli manufacturers contributes and maintains at least one third of the mini-

um 35 per cent content required under the proclamation for duty free treatment in the U.S.

The remaining one third of the content requirement could be imported from manufacturers in the Gaza Strip and parts of the West Bank which are run by the Palestinian National Authority (PNA). Israel or the U.S. The remaining 65 per cent content could come from all over the world.

Both manufacturers could each contribute and maintain a minimum of 20 per cent of the total cost of production excluding profits.

According to Mr. Salah, whose dozen factories manufacture anything from women's underwear and dairy products to textiles and electronics, the new facility will fulfill the QIZ requirement by setting up a

company in Israel to share the cost of production with the QIZ-based company.

Raw materials will be imported from the U.S. and Hong Kong, he added.

Half of the sewing will be done in Jordan through local denim factories — most of them out of operation because of financial problems. This, Mr. Salah said, will create jobs for more local workers.

Century Investment Group, a key force behind the establishment of the QIZ, has defied the soured political climate hampering Arab-Israeli business links.

But trade cooperation between the two countries has become most evident at the QIZ which has so far succeeded in attracting several foreign investors who want to grab what officials term "the unique opportuni-

ty" of exporting to the U.S. without reciprocal benefits.

However, Mr. Salah said the QIZ, with its limited space, will not be able to accommodate all these new investments.

The Jordan Industrial Estates Corporation (JIEC) has last week awarded a consortium of Jordanian firms a JD891,819 tender to expand Al Hassan Industrial Estate on 202 dunams of land as a first phase.

According to U.S. officials, Jordan and Israel could request the designation of additional QIZs as long as there is an economic activity in the proposed zone.

They said Irbid was chosen as the first zone to be designated by the U.S. because it already hosts a number of joint Jordanian-Israeli ventures.

## Internet Cafe craze sweeps Amman

By Ahmed Naser  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — In an example of what Jordanian entrepreneurs call the "copycat syndrome," five new Internet cafes have joined Amman's swelling Web industry this month and more are expected on the way.

But the owner of the first Internet Cafe in Amman, University Internet Cafe, which opened its doors March 1996, said most of the cafes were not based on proper marketing research.

"They [owners of the new cafes] think that anyone can open an Internet Cafe," said Abdul Raouf Douglas. His cafe, located opposite the main gate of the University

of Jordan (UJ), has over 300 regulars, mostly students. Mr. Douglas told the Jordan Times.

Asked by the Jordan Times whether or not he was worried about the new competition, Mr. Douglas said: "On the contrary, I wish more Web cafes would open."

"It has got nothing to do with pricing. People choose this cafe or that cafe, according to atmosphere," he said, adding that he had no plans to lower his rates.

Nevertheless, Mr. Douglas said that he loses an average of 10 customers a month who opt to buy their own computer and get their own Web subscription after an average of a month's visits

to his cafe.

"Many people who open Internet cafes do not realise this," he said.

Next door to Mr. Douglas's cafe are International Internet Cafe (I) and Ur Internet and Culture Cafe, which both opened in early April.

Assaad Tahat, owner of International, said profit is his motive for opening an Internet Cafe.

"There is a lot of money to be made out of the computer and Internet industry in Jordan," he said adding that he plans to add computer sales and photocopying to the Internet services.

Similar to Mr. Douglas, the majority of Mr. Tahat's customers are students who

do not own computers.

Internet Cafe customers who are not worried about privacy, pay an average of JD40 for 25 hours per month, without having to worry about phone bills or purchasing a computer.

In contrast, home users who own computers face total monthly charges of around JD80 in subscription fees and local phone calls, based on usage time, in addition to a phone-line application.

Targeting a different clientele, Imad Kubeh, owner of Ur, stressed that his venture-project was not simply "an Internet Cafe."

He said that he planned to turn his "cafe" into a research centre within the

next six months, after which the Internet would just be an added search tool for academic purposes.

"The Internet should not just be used for entertainment," Mr. Kubeh indicated.

Up the road, there are two other Web cafes opposite the Faculty of Agriculture and another two along the street facing UJ's northern gate.

Further to the west in Sweileh, there are two Internet cafes and a third is being set up.

Other areas in Amman have also witnessed the spread of the Internet cafe craze with two digital surf spots opposite the Safeway Supermarket in Shmeisani, one of which opened a few days ago, as well as the one located at Safeway's premises.

To the east, in Jabal Al Hussein, virgin territory for the recent trend, Circle C's cafe opened yesterday.

According to sources within the industry, the area may soon witness the launch of a second.

Unlike the cafes open on University Road, Circle, located in the bustling Hussein area is targeting businessmen, owner Saker Odeh said.

Mr. Odeh said that he may enter the Web authoring and Internet advertising market if his cafe achieves favourable profits.

In the wealthier Rabia neighbourhood — home to the highest number of argila cafes — sources told the Jordan Times that the area's first two cafes may open within the next few months.

Meanwhile, an offshoot of the Internet cafe craze is free advertisement for the different Internet Service Providers (ISP) that sell lease-lines to Web establishments. Lease-lines make up the bulk of ISPs' income.

The lease-line market is currently distributed between four companies: Advanced Business Networking (ABN), Global One, Index and FirstNet.

ABN which has been in the market for a year, unlike the three other ISPs, does not offer dial-ups. However, it is paying its way into the market with lease-line sales to the Internet Cafe sector, said Amer Nimry, ABN's development manager.

## REUTERS • REUTERS • The Business of Information

Major Currencies & Cross Rates Prices as at 21/04/98 18:39									
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	CAD	ITL	NLG	FRF
US Dollar	-	1.7875	0.5964	1.4818	131.29	1.4308	1768.10	2.0140	5.9377
DE Mark	0.5594	-	0.3334	0.8293	73.40	0.8004	988.77	1.1259	3.3527
GB Sterling	1.5766	3.0001	-	2.4874	220.25	2.3989	2968.43	3.3772	10.0589
CH Franc	0.6749	120.50	0.4015	-	88.47	0.9647	1191.79	135.68	4.0405
JP Yen	0.0076	1.3609	0.4540	1.1289	-	1.0899	13.46	153.30	4.5653
CA Dollar	0.5589	1.2916	0.4225	1.0556	1.09	-	1270.80	1.4851	4.3265
IT Lira	0.0006	1.0101	0.3369	0.8838	1348.35	0.8088	-	11.38	33.979
NL Guilder	0.4965	88.79	0.2861	73.65	66.15	0.7108	875.10	-	2.5774
FR Franc	0.1657	0.2981	0.0992	0.2428	21.87	0.2387	33.57	33.5700	-

Middle Eastern Currencies									
Currency	USD	JOD	SAR	BAH	QAT	KUW	AED	LBP	EGP
US Dollar	-	0.7090	3.7604	0.3770	3.6408	0.3052	3.6727	1627.20	3.4025
Jordan Dinar	1.4104	-	5.2857	0.6317	5.1351	0.4304	5.1801	2154.02	4.7990
Saudi Riyal	0.2668	0.1890	-	0.1005	0.97	0.0814	0.98	407.21	0.9072
Bahrain Dinar	2.85	1.8807	9.9485	-	9.66	0.8095	9.74	4051.14	9.0257
Qatar Dinar	0.2747	0.1947	1.0301	1.0301	-	0.0838	1.01	418.47	0.9345
Kuwait Dinar	3.2771	2.3234	12.2903	1.2354	11.93	-	12.04	5004.75	0.9345
Emirates Dinar	0.2723	0.1930	1.0212	1.0225	0.9913	0.0831	-	415.82	0.9264
Lebanese 1000	0.65	0.4642	2.4587	0.2468	2.3840	0.1998	2.4049	-	2.2779
Egyptian	0.2939	0.2084	1.1022	0.1108	1.0700	0.0857	1.0794	448.85	-

Energy		
Oil	Last	Review
Brent	13.96	13.91
W. Texas	15.51	15.48
Bonny	13.96	13.91
Dubai	12.85	12.55
UL Gas	158.00	159.00

Mid-East Currencies						
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	
SA Riyal	0.2668	0.4794	0.16904	0.38548	35.0081	
AE Dirham	0.2723	0.48845	0.1624	0.40384	35.75	
KW Dinar	3.2771	5.8548	1.95465	4.86145	430.293	
BH Dinar	0.3770	4.73934	1.58228	3.93391	348.311	
CY Pound	1.9033	3.4018	1.1345	2.8213	249.713	

Metal Prices		
Metal	Bid	Offer
Gold (oz's)	308	308.5
Silver (oz's)	6.24	6.27
Platinum (oz's)	415	417
AL (3 Months)	1457	1458
Cu (3 Months)	1868	1872
Zinc (3 Months)	1111	1115
Lead (3 Months)	572	575
NI (3 Months)	5525	5530

Libor Fixing						
Period	-1	-3	-6	-1		
Cncy	Month	Months	Months	Year		
USD	5.6719	5.7422	5.7813	5.9219		
GBP	7.4715	7.4948	7.4948	7.4948		
JPY	0.6563	0.7366	0.7604	0.7813		
DEM	3.6248	3.7265	3.8281	3.9999		
FRF	3.5315	1.5417	1.6771	1.8645		
CHF	1.4053	3.6328	3.7820	3.9888		
ITL	5.5500	5.1820	4.8950	-		

Main Equity Indices						
Bourse	Index	Value	Chng	% Chng	High	Low
New York	DOW JONES	9181.7	39.86	0.44	9193.85	9098.28
New York	S&P 500	1128.62	4.97	0.44	1129.86	1123.65
London	FT-SE 100	5956.2	12.1	0.2	5976	5884.8
Tokyo	NIKKEI 225	15825.87	128.57	0.82	15827.2	15682.6
Paris	CAC 40	3860.4	25.29	0.65	3862.09	3822.64
Frankfurt	DAX	5388.54	53.06	0.98	5388.94	5345.53

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET														
HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - SPEKISARI														
TELEPHONE: 607191 / 607199														
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR TUESDAY 21/04/1998														
PAST 12 MONTHS HIGH		COMPANY'S NAME	P / E	DIV.	NO. OF TRANS.	NO. OF SHARES	VALUE TRADED JD	OPEN PRICE	CLOSE PRICE	CHANGE				
350.000	251.000	ARAB BANK	14.1	1.16	7	1200	414000	344.00	345.00	1.00				
2.340	1.660	JOR. NATIONAL BK.	14.5	3.91	9	2850	5096	1.80	1.79	-0.01				
1.540	1.250	BANK OF JORDAN	14.3	0.00	4	3600	4860	1.34	1.35	0.01				
2.680	1.650	INDUSTRIAL DEV. BK.	9.2	7.92	14	8700	15452	1.79	1.78	-0.01				
4.180	1.790	JOR. KUWAIT BANK	9	0.00	5	1555	2851	1.84	1.83	-0.01				
520	500	JOR. GULF BANK	4.0	10.45	3	2250	1508	1.68	1.67	-0.01				
4.020	1.750	JOR. ISLAMIC BANK	15.6	0.00	15	2773	5074	1.81	1.84	0.03				
1.420	1.020	UNION BK. SAV. INV.	P	0.00	1	2200	2332	1.07	1.06	-0.01				
1.400	800	BRIT. AL-HAL (BEITRA)	5	17.65	2	500	425	85	85	-				
BANK SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 244.02	%CHG: -0.19	60	25632	451597							
2.400	1.590	JOR. FRENCH INSUR.	6.0	11.57	6	8128	17848	2.20	2.16	-0.04				
INSURANCE SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 122.51	%CHG: -0.19	6	8128	17848							
2.240	1.550	JOR. ELECTRIC PWR.	10.6	5.05	14	9100	19803	2.19	2.18	-0.01				
1.590	960	MATL. PORTFOLIO	42.7	0.00	8	2250	2410	1.08	1.07	-0.01				
1.120	850	REAL ESTATE INV.	18.6	0.00	3	5090	4830	92	95	0.03				
590	360	JORDAN INTL. TRAD.	9	0.00	2	2500	948	38	37	-0.01				
4.600	2.890	JORDAN INTL. INV. EDUC.	10.4	1.90	1	250	630	4.20	4.20	-				
1.050	740	JORDAN EXPT. INV.	9	0.00	2	2000	1790	90	90	-				
1.090	900	ARAB EDUCATION	16.5	0.00	1	250	235	95	94	-0.01				
1.830	1.450	UNIFIED CO.	6.9	7.01	10	1750	2741	1.58	1.57	-0.01				
1.350	1.450	UNITED FOR FINAN. INV.	7	12.03	2	10000	11100	1.11	1.11	-				
SERVICE SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 119.00	%CHG: -0.08	43	33990	44485							
4.450	2.690	JOR. CEMENT FACT.	17.1	3.81	13	4921	20079	2.92	2.89	-0.03				
11.160	9.200	JOR. PETROL. REFINERY	10.6	8.12	3	301	3296	10.95	10.95	-				
1.460	1.040	WOOLLEN INDUSTRIES	12.4	6.99	3	1650	2374	1.43	1.43	-				
1.200	1.100	INDUSTRIAL CORP. AGP.	9	0.00	14	9850	12981	1.43	1.42	-0.01				
5.740	3.440	ARAB PHARM. MANF.	15.4	3.58	68	21639	122244	5.61	5.59	-0.02				
1.530	1.020	JOR. PIPES MANFCT.	10.9	7.58	3	1537	2028	1.33	1.32	-0.01				
6.350	4.400	DAR ADAMA. DV. INV.	7.3	5.74	1	10000	61000	6.12	6.10	-0.02				
1.420	2.220	ARAB ALUM. IND.	21.2	8.74	5	8850	25311	2.85	2.86	0.01				
780	400	LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	16.6	0.00	4	4250	2083	49	49	-				
1.110	670	ARAB PAPER CONV. TRD.	23.2	0.00	1	200	352	74	76	0.02				
515	520	INTERNATIONAL PETRO. CHEN.	9	0.00	3	3958	3958	58	57	-0.01				
780	370	INTERNATIONAL PETRO. CHEN.	9	0.00	24	50500	20202	40	41	0.01				
2.240	1.360	UNIV. CHEM. INDUS.	14.6	5.59	23	5325	7510	1.36	1.43	0.07				
3.000	920	MATL. CHALK MFG. NYAC	28.9	0.00	35	29650	35515	1.20	1.20	-				
530	790	UNIV. RESOURCES	10.0	0.00	1	5000	4057	62	61	-0.01				
1.560	1.150	ARAB CHAM. CHEN.	15.1	4.38	10	5950	8132	1.37	1.37	-				
1.540	810	UNIV. MOON. INDUS.	14.4	5.67	5	2000	1800	90	90	-				
510	580	UNIV. RESOURCES	14.9	14.93	4	1000	1000	70	70	-				
1.620	1.350	MATL. CHROMIUM	10.3	6.80	4	3450	5072	1.47	1.47	-				
1.790	1.290	EL-SAY. READY WEAR	49.3	0.00	4	950	1330	1.39	1.40	0.01				
1.750	1.290	MATL. TONACOR	7.0	0.00	54	76050	96157	1.24	1.28	0.04				
780	570	MID-EST. COMPLEX	7.3	16.95	39	139900	78757	58	59	0.01				
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 109.58	%CHG: -0.11	341	386123	513347							
GRAND TOTAL			INDEX: 171.23	%CHG: -0.07	450	452973	1027276							
PARALLEL MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR TUESDAY 21/04/1998														
N	1.050	910	EXPORT & FIN. MKT. 751 <th>17.0</th> <th>0.00</th> <th>1</th> <th>2000</th> <th>1340</th> <th>93</th> <th>92</th> <th>-0.01</th> <th colspan="3"></th>	17.0	0.00	1	2000	1340	93	92	-0.01			
1	410	300	KNIGHT GEN. STORAGE <th>0</th> <th>0.00</th> <th>2</th> <th>2750</th> <th>908</th> <th>33</th> <th>33</th> <th>-</th> <th colspan="3"></th>	0	0.00	2	2750	908	33	33	-			
2	340	530	JORDAN PAPER <th>0</th> <th>0.00</th> <td>14</td> <td>25850</td> <td>4415</td> <td>91</td> <td>91</td> <td>-</td> <td colspan="3"></td>	0	0.00	14	25850	4415	91	91	-			
3	700	480	MATL. CONCR. CENTERS <th>8</th> <th>0.00</th> <td>1</td> <td>250</td> <td>138</td> <td>58</td> <td>55</td> <td>-0.03</td> <td colspan="3"></td>	8	0.00	1	250	138	58	55	-0.03			
4	800	660	UNION INV. 501 <th>0</th> <th>6<td>16988</td><td>485</td><td>76</td><td>76</td><td>-</td><td colspan="3"></td></th>	0	6 <td>16988</td> <td>485</td> <td>76</td> <td>76</td> <td>-</td> <td colspan="3"></td>	16988	485	76	76	-				
5	360	620	ARAB FIN. INVEST. <th>0</th> <th>0.00<td>6</td><td>10000</td><td>4200</td><td>40</td><td>40</td><td>-</td><td colspan="3"></td></th>	0	0.00 <td>6</td> <td>10000</td> <td>4200</td> <td>40</td> <td>40</td> <td>-</td> <td colspan="3"></td>	6	10000	4200	40	40	-			
6	1.000	720	AL-SHARDY JOR. CO. <th>0</th> <th>0.00<td>4</td><td>22100</td><td>22100</td><td>1.00</td><td>1.00</td><td>-</td><td colspan="3"></td></th>	0	0.00 <td>4</td> <td>22100</td> <td>22100</td> <td>1.00</td> <td>1.00</td> <td>-</td> <td colspan="3"></td>	4	22100	22100	1.00	1.00	-			
7	780	610	AL-DAMLIAN <th>8</th> <td>2.50</td> <td>1</td> <td>700</td> <td>469</td> <td>67</td> <td>67</td> <td>-</td> <td colspan="3"></td>	8	2.50	1	700	469	67	67	-			
8	1.220	1.000	SPECIALIZED JOR. 751 <th>78.9<td>0.00</td><td>2</td><td>19000</td><td>17900</td><td>1.16</td><td>1.16</td><td>-</td><td colspan="3"></td></th>	78.9 <td>0.00</td> <td>2</td> <td>19000</td> <td>17900</td> <td>1.16</td> <td>1.16</td> <td>-</td> <td colspan="3"></td>	0.00	2	19000	17900	1.16	1.16	-			
9	570 <th>710<th>UNIV. MED.<th>9</th><td>0.00</td><td>4</td><td>250</td><td>150</td><td>46</td><td>46</td><td>-</td><td colspan="3"></td></th></th>	710 <th>UNIV. MED.<th>9</th><td>0.00</td><td>4</td><td>250</td><td>150</td><td>46</td><td>46</td><td>-</td><td colspan="3"></td></th>	UNIV. MED. <th>9</th> <td>0.00</td> <td>4</td> <td>250</td> <td>150</td> <td>46</td> <td>46</td> <td>-</td> <td colspan="3"></td>	9	0.00	4	250	150	46	46	-			
10	610	370	ARAB FOOD & FIB. <th>0</th> <td>0.00</td> <td>4</td> <td>2000</td> <td>805</td> <td>46</td> <td>45</td> <td>-0.01</td> <td colspan="3"></td>	0	0.00	4	2000	805	46	45	-0.01			
11	470	240	JORD. INTL. INV. TRD. <th>42.6<td>0.00</td><td>16</td><td>62200</td><td>23054</td><td>38</td><td>37</td><td>-0.01</td><td colspan="3"></td></th>	42.6 <td>0.00</td> <td>16</td> <td>62200</td> <td>23054</td> <td>38</td> <td>37</td> <td>-0.01</td> <td colspan="3"></td>	0.00	16	62200	23054	38	37	-0.01			
12	360	750	MAT. MILD. CONCR. <th>0</th> <td>0.00</td> <td>4</td> <td>275</td> <td>218</td> <td>90</td> <td>90</td> <td>-</td> <td colspan="3"></td>	0	0.00	4	275	218	90	90	-			
13	1.230	890	READY MIX CONCRETE <th>9.7<td>0.00</td><td>1</td><td>400</td><td>360</td><td>95</td><td>90</td><td>-0.05</td><td colspan="3"></td></th>	9.7 <td>0.00</td> <td>1</td> <td>400</td> <td>360</td> <td>95</td> <td>90</td> <td>-0.05</td> <td colspan="3"></td>	0.00	1	400	360	95	90	-0.05			





Germany's Boris Becker grimaces as he returns the ball during his match against Jan Siemerink of the Netherlands in the first round of the Monte Carlo Open. Becker defeated Siemerink 5-7 6-3 6-1 (Reuters photo)

## Henman hounded out at Monte Carlo Open

MONTE CARLO (AFP) — Briton Tim Henman made a start to forget in his first clay court match since last summer, going out 6-2, 5-4 for the first round to Spain's Galo Blanco at the Monte Carlo Open on Tuesday.

The 11th seed from Oxford, who reached the quarterfinals last week on hardcourt in Tokyo, had little to offer against Blanco in the one-hour, 43-minute defeat at the Mercedes Super 9 tournament.

Henman saved himself briefly with the end near as he broke Blanco when the Spaniard served for the match on an outside court at the Monte Carlo Country Club, leaving himself a set and 3-5 down.

The Briton, who last played clay in a Davis Cup match in July against the Ukraine, had a game point in the ninth game, but threw it away with a double fault.

The seed fought back through the marathon game to win it 4-5 after salvaging multiple match points for Blanco.

The World No. 59 qualifier finally clinched the win on a backhand pass after Henman saved a set match point.

Tour seed Greg Rusedski remains Britain's last chance at the event. He plays a second-round match Wednesday after a bye, facing Boris Becker.

Thomas Muster, the man who beat Becker for the title here in 1995, suffered a first-round loss, going out 6-0, 6-3 to 14th seed Carlos Moya of Spain.

"I just played too defensive," said the 30-year-old Austrian, who gained world number one status for a few weeks in



Spain's Sergi Bruguera grimaces as he returns the ball during his match against Jeff Tarango of the USA in the first round of the Monte Carlo Open (Reuters photo)

1996. "He just played better. I should have played all of the match like I did parts of the second set.

"Even if he's young, he's an experienced player and can take advantage of things like that."

Muster, holder of 44 titles — almost all of them earned on clay — said that he is not worried about his form going into the French Open despite his upset defeat.

"Physically, I'm in top shape. On the other hand, maybe I'm trying too hard. I'm not playing loose enough, that can also be bad."

France's tenth seed Cedric Pioline eliminated Spaniard Carlos Costa 6-2, 3-6, 6-3 while compatriot Fabrice Santoro beat countryman Arnaud Clement 6-2, 6-1.

Spaniard Sergi Bruguera, seeded 15th, knocked out American qualifier Jeff Tarango 6-1, 1-6, 7-5. Andre Agassi was playing fellow American Todd Martin with the winner earning a second-round place against top seed Pete Sampras.

Henman said that after his long break from the clay, he didn't come in with great expectations.

"It takes a lot of adjusting. I look at it as a huge challenge," said the World No. 15.

"I'm never going to be easy for me on the surface. I'm going to have to learn to play against different styles. I've got to develop a style of game which will be effective."

"I certainly cannot beat the claycourters at their own game. I've got to serve consistently and be patient."

"At the end of the match I was quite prepared to stay out there and rally. Stranger things have happened."

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## Italy ready to test electronic eye

MILAN (AFP) — Italian soccer officials are to ask FIFA if they can experiment with an electronic eye in the goalposts of the Serie A.

The move follows a bitter controversy at the weekend after a referee failed to see the ball cross Juventus' line from a distance of a few yards, and ruled out an equaliser for Empoli.

Federation president Luciano Nizzola is to invite a number of electronics companies to offer a solution to the goal-line problem, probably using the sensors or photo-electric cells already used in other sports.

However, any experiment in real matches would require the approval of football's governing body, FIFA, whose rule book is in the hands of the International Board.

"It's not been this particular episode that's convinced me," Nizzola claimed.

"I've been thinking about this for a few weeks. We need to find a mechanism capable of showing unequivocally whether the ball has crossed the line."

"Obviously, we need FIFA's agreement, but our federation could put itself forward for experiments to determine 'certain goals' even from next season, for example," Nizzola said.

He summed up: "Our duty is to find a way of eliminating any possibility of mistakes being made over whether a goal is allowed or not."

The referee in the Empoli v Juventus match, Pasquale Rodomonti, has been relieved of his duties for the rest of the current season, and is unlikely ever to referee a Juventus match again.

Juventus goalkeeper Angelo Peruzzi has meanwhile admitted that the ball from Stefano Bianconi's header did cross the line.

"I've seen the pictures. It was a goal," he said. "What am I supposed to do, feel ashamed of myself for knocking the ball back out? Now it seems like it's all my fault."

"I saw the ball and dived for it. What else was I supposed to do?"

Aside from electronic eyes, another change being mulled by Italian officials is to spread the Serie A's matches over the entire weekend.

Currently, 16 teams play on Sunday afternoons, with one match saved for Sunday night on subscription television.

## Pele sees old rivals as major threat

BUENOS AIRES (AFP) — Pele has identified Argentina as a major threat to Brazil's hopes of retaining their World Cup title and tipped his country's old rivals for at least a semi-final place in France this summer.

"Without doubt they will reach the semis," said Pele, star of three winning campaigns for Brazil, on a visit Monday to Buenos Aires.

Pele, who resigned earlier this month as Brazil's outgoing sports minister, said Argentine coach Daniel Passarella "already has a well-established team," whereas Brazilian counterpart Mario Zagallo "has not yet formed the crux of his side."

Pele earlier this month criticised Zagallo for not choosing a settled team and sticking with it.

The soccer legend said that whilst

Zagallo "has the best players in the world as individuals they are not established, not as organised. And they will find they have some problems in defence," he forecast.

Pele meanwhile stressed he was fully behind Swede Lennart Johansson to replace fellow Brazilian Joao Havelange as FIFA president.

"Before (FIFA) general secretary Sepp Blatter announced his candidature I had already backed Johansson for a number of reasons," said Pele.

"He has run an honest administration at UEFA and supports more democratisation in world football. And he wants to invest a lot of money in the sport's grassroots, for example in young players."

Pele also forecast that young compatriot and FIFA world player of the year

Ronaldo was ready to use the World Cup stage to confirm his status as one of the all time greats.

"Ronaldo can be the great star of the World Cup but people are asking too much of him and everybody wants him to step into the boots of Pele and Maradona."

"If Ronaldo can withstand the pressure, however, I have no doubt he will be one of the great stars of the event," said Pele of the Inter Milan striker.

Pele added he believed the Cup was up for grabs because "many teams are on about the same level and I don't think we will see many major tactical changes."

"But I think that we might see more attacking football," said Pele, noting recent FIFA rule changes were designed to achieve this.

## Lama set to start for French

STOCKHOLM (AFP) — Bernard Lama is set to reclaim his place as first-choice goalkeeper for France when the World Cup hosts take on Sweden in a friendly international here on Wednesday night.

The West Ham custodian has not played for France for 14 months but has redeemed himself after a suspension for smoking marijuana and takes over from Fabien Barthez as coach Aimé Jacquet fine tunes the team's preparations for the World Cup.

"I want to come back stronger and better than ever," said Lama, a veteran of 35 international appearances who has been outstanding in the English Premiership in recent weeks.

Lama is likely to be joined in the French starting line-up by two players whose seasons have been all but destroyed by injury: Bayern Munich defender Bixente Lizarazu and Marseille striker Christophe Dugarry.

"This match gives me a chance to look

at players who are well-known to me and see what shape they are in," said Jacquet.

Euro 96 star Dugarry will play up front alongside Younès Djorkaeff but knows he faces a battle just to make the 22-man World Cup squad in the face of competition from players like leading French league scorer Stéphane Guivarc'h, Monaco's exciting young star David Trezeguet, Arsenal's Nicolas Anelka and Paris St Germain striker Florian Maurice.

"I'm still a hungry player and this is my chance to make a point," Dugarry said Monday.

Sweden, meanwhile, will be without two regular starters, defender Roland Nilsson and striker Kennet Andersson. Nilsson is injured and Andersson asked to be omitted for personal reasons, said coach Tommy Soderberg.

## Klinsmann may start on bench

COLOGNE (AFP) — German captain Jürgen Klinsmann is likely to start from the bench when his team face fellow qualifiers Nigeria in a World Cup warm-up match here on Wednesday.

Coach Berti Vogts has assured Klinsmann of a place in his squad for the finals in France, but the promise is becoming increasingly hard to justify with each week that passes without Klinsmann scoring a goal for his English Premiership employers Tottenham Hotspur.

Vogts wants to clarify the situation with Spurs' Swiss coach Christian Gross — but the two men haven't been able to track each other down.

"Gross has tried to contact me a few times, but unfortunately forgot to leave his number," Vogts explained.

On current form he will find it hard to go past strikers Ulf Kirsten and Oliver Bierhoff, who are the top goalscorers in Germany's Bundesliga and Italy's Serie A respectively.

"I will accept the coach's decision, even though of course I want my place in the side," Klinsmann said diplomatically.

Once again Germany's selection process for this match has been marred by injuries to key players.

Only 13 of Germany's 19 outfield players were able to train Monday. Another seven — Mehmet Scholl, Mario Basler, Matthias Sammer, Lars Ricken, Jörg Heinrich, Christian Ziege and Thomas Helmer — are missing from the squad because of various injuries.

"Our injury problems have got worse compared to the previous tournaments in 1994 (World Cup) and 1996 (European Championship)," Vogts said.

Although time seems to have run out for Matthias Sammer, another long lost son has returned to the fold in his Borussia Dortmund teammate Steffen Freund.

A Paul Gascoigne foul in the Euro 96 semi-finals snapped Freund's knee ligaments and left him racked with doubt as he fought his way back to form.

"These last two years, during which I have constantly had injuries, have really taught me a lesson," Freund said. "I saw who stuck by me and who didn't. It was always my goal to play again for the national team and I'm enjoying that now."

The absence of renowned defenders Helmut Kohler and Jürgen Kohler leaves a gap in defence. Freund may well be on to plug.

## England out to silence the critics

LONDON (AFP) — England will be out to silence their growing band of critics when they face Portugal in a World Cup warm-up match at Wembley on Wednesday.

England coach Glenn Hoddle and his players came in for heavy criticism after last month's 1-1 draw against Switzerland and a 2-0 home defeat to Chile in February.

England looked starved of invention and adventure against the Swiss when an experimental line-up failed to create a single chance on goal in the first half.

Hoddle blamed the bumpy pitch and a severe injury crisis for the lacklustre display, but his critics were unforgiving and slammed both his choice of players and the tactical approach to the game.

Another defeat at Wembley to the talented, if toothless, Portuguese would only increase the pressure on the England coach with the World Cup finals just seven weeks away.

Paul Gascoigne is seen as England's most creative player, and his vision and command in the centre of midfield were sorely missed against the Swiss.

But the Middlesbrough star, who has been struggling with injury problems for much of the season, looks set to miss Wednesday's match, further undermining Hoddle's

World Cup preparations.

Hoddle admitted: "He was not able to train with us and at this stage looks very doubtful. The ankle is improving but not as much as we would have liked and time is running out, as regards Wednesday."

"He's had an ankle problem for some time which has flared up again and then a tackle in the match with Manchester City on Friday has also set his groin back."

"It was a chicken and an egg situation for him. He needs games and has played well but the knock he picked up looks like it will rule him out on Wednesday."

Hoddle, however, is still optimistic that Gascoigne can recover in time and prove his fitness before he has to name his World Cup 22 at the start of June.

Hoddle said: "There is enough football left this season and if he can recover from that ankle problem I will have no problem picking him on June 2."

Injuries have been plaguing England's countdown to the finals and there was more bad news on Monday when Liverpool duo Jamie Redknapp and Dominic Matteo were forced to pull out of the squad.

Redknapp's appalling luck at international level continued when a knee ligament injury he suffered against Coventry on Sunday wrecked his hopes of a recall.

Matteo has been forced to withdraw after requiring nine stitches in a gashed foot suffered in the 1-1 draw at Highfield Road.

Hoddle said: "It is incredibly bad luck for Redknapp. It seems every time there is an England get-together of players for England that he seems to get injured. There seems to be some sort of jinx against him."

Hoddle, though, is confident that striker Ian Wright could soon be ready to start on the comeback trail with double-chasing Arsenal after his recent rash of injury problems.

"We've kept him under wraps for the last couple of days but there is a chance that he could be back in action next week and be ready for a reserve team game," Hoddle said.

"He needs to play some part in the games coming up to show us that he is fit. I'm not worried about his ability but I need to know that he's going to be fit and available."

Hoddle admitted that he is extremely worried about the injury situation.

"The only consolation to me is that the injury situation in the build-up to the Portugal game is not as bad as before Switzerland — when it was horrendous," he added. "But we still have enough talent in this squad to pick a good side."

## Agassi recounts visit to Shroud of Turin

MONACO (AFP) — Andre Agassi hopes a spiritual uplift from a lightning weekend visit to see the Shroud of Turin will serve him well in his first-round match against Todd Martin at the \$2.45 million Monte Carlo Open on Tuesday.

The unseeded American, who is deeply religious but does not usually discuss his faith, Monday recounted his helicopter trip on Sunday to Turin

to see the ancient religious relic, which Catholics believe was used to wrap Christ's body two millennia ago after his crucifixion.

Agassi, practising for his 1998 clay court debut at the Monte Carlo Country Club at the Mercedes Super 9 event, said that his desire to see the Shroud, on limited display at the cathedral in the northern Italian city, was overwhelming.

"I knew what to expect," said the American. "But I can't actually describe being there. It was beautiful."

Agassi was flown by helicopter from the tournament to Turin, around 220 kilometers from the principality, and was then driven by a Rolls-Royce.

## Kenya's Tanui Roba win B

AFRICA (AFP) — Kenya's Moses Tanui had to lead the pack as they headed for the final seven miles to win his second consecutive marathon while Roba won her title in domestic competition.

The 200 metres race was won by the Kenyan lead pack as they headed for the final seven miles to win his second consecutive marathon while Roba won her title in domestic competition.

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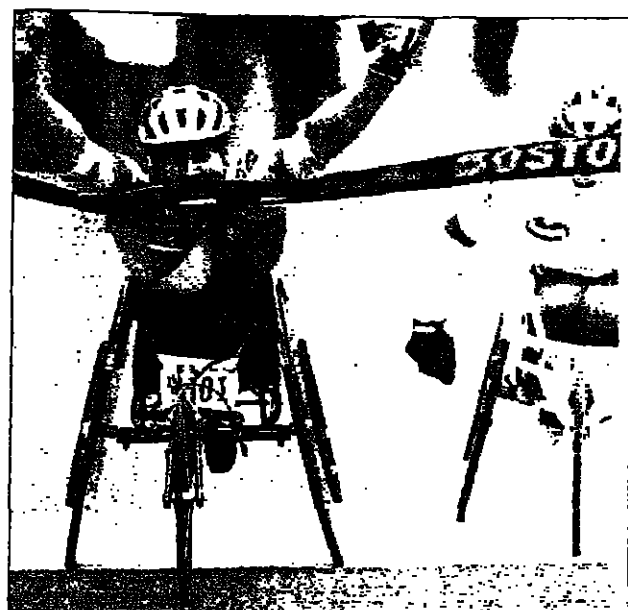


## Kenya's Tanui and Ethiopia's Roba win Boston Marathon

**BOSTON (AFP)** — Kenya's Moses Tanui had to rally in the final seven miles Monday to win his second Boston Marathon while Ethiopia's Fatuma Roba defended her title in dominating fashion.

Tanui was 200 metres behind the lead pack as they began Heartbreak Hill but caught the pace-setters and pulled away from compatriot Joseph Chebet in the final 200 metres to reclaim the title he also won in 1996.

Tanui's unofficial time of two hours, seven minutes and 34 seconds was the third-fastest time here, 18 seconds off the record set by Kenya's Cosmas Ndeti in 1994, and the 12th-fastest marathon ever clocked.



Australia's Louise Sauvage (L) crosses the finish line just inches ahead of seven time women's wheelchair champion Jean Driscoll to win the women's division of the Boston Marathon. Sauvage came from behind to win the race in the last few feet (Reuters photo)

Chebet was second, three seconds back while South Africa's Gert Thys was third, 18 seconds behind Tanui, followed in order by Brazil's Andre Ramos, Kenya's John Kagwe and Mexico's German Silva.

Olympic champion Roba won in 2:23:21, the ninth-best showing in women's marathon history, pulling away just past the midpoint and running alone at the end. She is the only African woman to ever win here.

Both champions won \$80,000 top prizes with the third-fastest times in the event's 102-year history.

Tanui's personal best extended the streak of Kenyan men's winners here to eight in a row. It vindicated his decision not to chase the early leaders, who sped to a record half-marathon pace of 62 minutes and 44 seconds.

"They were running too fast," Tanui said. "I thought I was going my best. As we came to the end, I picked up the pace."

Tanui stopped Ndeti's win streak at three here in 1996 and was fifth last year. He was in peak form this year after winning two Japanese half-marathons earlier this year.

The second-largest in the event's history, wound their way 26.2 miles through Boston streets in the 102nd running of the world's oldest annual marathon.

Australia's Louise Sauvage and Franz Niedispach of Switzerland each won their second consecutive Boston wheelchair titles.

Sauvage passed six-time champion Jean Driscoll of the United States two pushes from the finish line for the victory in 1:41:19.

"I didn't know she was coming up that fast," Driscoll said. "I was in shock when we went across the line. I was ahead until the final second."

Sauvage made up 50 metres in the final straightaway to pull out the triumph.

"I didn't think I would make it but I kept pushing as hard as I could," Sauvage said. "I never dreamed about catching her on the line."

Niedispach defended his title in 1:21:52.

## NBA Nuggets and Clippers sack coaches

**DENVER (AFP)** — Denver coach Bill Hanzlik and Los Angeles Clippers coach Bill Fitch were fired on Monday, one day after finishing woeful National Basketball Association seasons.

The Nuggets went 11-71, the second-worst mark in NBA history, barely surpassing the 9-73 finish suffered by the Philadelphia 76ers in 1973. No clubs have won fewer in 30 years of an 82-game NBA schedule.

The Nuggets opened with 12 losses in a row and went on later in the season to match an NBA single-season record with 23 consecutive losses.

The Clippers struggled to a 17-65 finish under Fitch, at 63 the NBA's second-worst and all-time losingest coach. The Clippers have lost 50 or more games 14 of the past 17 years.

Hanzlik, who took over Denver this season, paid the price for a club that traded away high-priced talent and concentrated on youth in a bid to maximize the amount of money they will have to spend on free agents.

But they might be so bad that top talent would rather play elsewhere for less in a bid to win a championship.

Hanzlik's fate was likely sealed in February when his friend and mentor Allan Bristow was fired as Denver's general manager. He was replaced by former Nuggets coach and general manager Dan Issel last month.

"The Nuggets franchise must move forward and put this disappointing season behind us," said Issel. "We will continue to evaluate every level of the organization and focus on returning the Nuggets to respectability."

Fitch guided the Clippers to the playoffs last season but the club flopped this season, leaving him 99-239 for his time in Los Angeles and 944-1,106 in 25 NBA seasons that included time with Cleveland, Boston, Houston and New Jersey.

"We are exceedingly grateful for all of Bill's very significant contributions to the overall progress of our organization," said Clippers Vice President Elgin Baylor. "In the next phase of our development, it was felt that it would be best to go in a different direction."

## Gimelstob ousts Stoltenberg

**ORLANDO (AFP)** — American Justin Gimelstob, playing his first match in over two months, rallied past second-seeded Australian Jason Stoltenberg 3-6, 6-3, 6-4, at the U.S. Clay Court Championships.

Gimelstob, sidelined since February 10 with a herniated lower back disc, won his first ATP match on clay at the \$315,000 event here Monday in an opening-round match.

Stoltenberg, an Orlando resident, reached the semifinals here last year and won the event in 1994. Eighth seed Juan Antonio Marin was ousted by fellow Spaniard Alex Calatrava when he had to retire due to lower back spasms.

Fifth seed Gianluca Pozzi of Italy advanced with a 6-3, 7-6 (7/4) victory over Armenian Sargis Sargsian. Top seed and defending champion Michael Chang of the United States, has won only one title and lost 11 early round matches since winning here a year ago, falling from second to 12th in the world. Chang, who also has battled through a recent knee injury, opens Tuesday against Paraguay's Ramon Delgado.

## Bulls face Nets, Suns meet Spurs in NBA playoffs Thursday

**WASHINGTON (AFP)** — National Basketball Association playoff capsules:

### \* Eastern Conference

• **Chicago Bulls (62-20) vs New Jersey Nets (43-39)**  
The Bulls have 10-time NBA scoring champion Michael Jordan, seven-time NBA rebounding champion Dennis Rodman, multi-talented Scottie Pippen plus Toni Kukoc and Luc Longley coming back from injuries. The season has been focused on the quest for a sixth NBA title in eight years in what could be the farewell for Jordan and a breakup for the most dominant club of the 1990s. The Bulls lost all four games against Chicago and barely reached the playoffs. The Bulls are rested but ready to run.

• **Miami Heat (55-27) vs New York Knicks (43-39)**  
Bitter rivals even before violence in last year's playoff, they split four regular season games and figure to wage an emotional battle. Knicks center Patrick Ewing's absence brought the club together, but taking out Alonzo Mourning and Miami's outside sharpshooters will be a tough task. Whichever advances

could be drained from the effort.

• **Indiana Pacers (58-24) vs Cleveland Cavaliers (47-35)**

Indiana's experience and Cleveland's youth provide a stark contrast. New coach Larry Bird guided the Pacers to their best-ever record, with Reggie Miller and Dutch center Rik Smits for scoring. Mark Jackson giving direction. Dale and Antonio Davis grabbing rebounds. Jalen Rose hot and Chris Shawn Kemp and three rookie starters who took two of four from Indiana this season. If Zydrunas Ilgauskas negates Smits, Cavs could surprise.

• **Charlotte Hornets (51-31) vs Atlanta Hawks (50-32)**  
The Hawks swept the season series from the Hornets, even though Charlotte did claim home-court advantage. Atlanta's Mookie Blaylock and Dikembe Mutombo can be impressive on offense and defense. Allan Henderson is a candidate for Most Improved Player and is hot after 39 and 25 points in his past two games. The Hornets sputtered over the final two weeks of the season and are

vulnerable.

### \* Western Conference

• **Utah Jazz (62-20) vs Houston Rockets (41-41)**

The Jazz swept Houston in the regular season and are confident. Karl Malone and John Stockton give Utah the best chance any team has had in eight years of conquering a Jordan-led Bulls team. The Rockets are coming apart with Charles Barkley wanting out, Clyde Drexler retiring and Hakeem Olajuwon below his peak numbers of 1994 and 1995.

• **Seattle SuperSonics (61-21) vs Minnesota Timberwolves (45-37)**

The Sonics have depth. They feature Gary Payton outside and Vin Baker inside. A close-knit team chemistry could make a difference. Minnesota won a club-record 45 games and is building for the future with

Kevin Garnett. But beating the Sonics is still asking a bit much for now.

• **Los Angeles Lakers (61-21) vs Portland Trail Blazers (46-36)**

The Lakers are the NBA's hottest team, entering the playoffs with a five-game win streak. Shaquille O'Neal is the NBA's most dominating center. Kobe Bryant, Eddie Jones and Nick Van Exel are deadly from outside. Portland beat the Lakers twice and has the size and conditioning to give Los Angeles fits.

• **Phoenix Suns (56-26) vs San Antonio Spurs (56-26)**

Possibly the best matchup of the first round, the Suns are small and quick and the Spurs dominate with height. Kevin Johnson helped the Suns take three of four from the Spurs this year. But Tim Duncan and David Robinson give San Antonio twin tower power.

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## Fiorentina want Trapattoni

**MILAN (AFP)** — Fiorentina are looking to hire Giovanni Trapattoni, the most successful Italian soccer coach of all time, in their bid for trophy success next season.

Trapattoni, 59, who is leaving Bayern Munich at the end of the season, has welcomed the Serie A club's interest and is ready to negotiate, according to the Corriere dello Sport.

Trapattoni's halcyon years were with Juventus (from 1976-86 and 1991-94), when he won the Italian league six times, along with the European Cup, the Intercontinental Cup, two Italian Cups, the European Cup Winners Cup, the European Super Cup and two UEFA Cups.

He also guided Inter Milan to the league and UEFA Cup and last season made German champions and German Super Cup winners out of Bayern.

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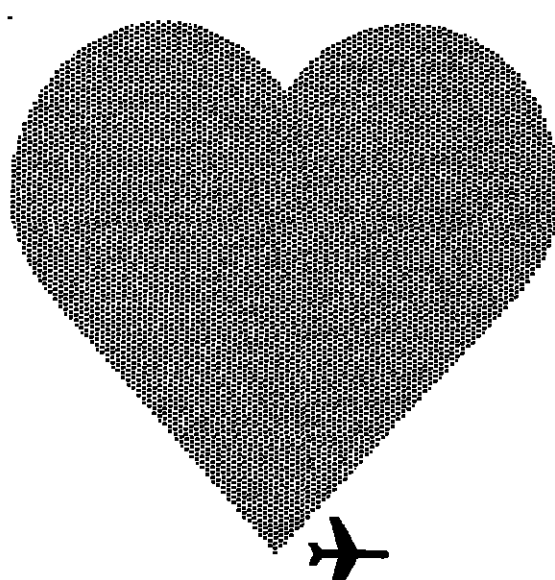
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WINNING THE HEARTS OF THE WORLD



# Netanyahu ready to meet with Arafat in London

TEL AVIV (AP) — Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Tuesday he is ready to meet with Palestinian President Yasser Arafat during Mideast talks in London next month and suggested progress on a West Bank troop withdrawal was possible.

Mr. Netanyahu said he didn't want to raise expectations, "but then again we all want to be able to surprise ourselves and the world." U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright is to hold separate meetings in the British capital on May 4 with Mr. Netanyahu and Mr. Arafat on the scope of an Israeli troop pullback.

British Prime Minister Tony Blair will host Mr. Arafat and Mr. Netanyahu, also separately, to discuss the Palestinian airport and a Gaza industrial park whose openings have been delayed because of disagreements with Israel over security arrangements.

Mr. Blair had breakfast with Mr. Netanyahu on Tuesday, wrapping up a three-day visit to Israel and the Palestinian areas during

which he created the impression of new momentum in the stalled talks even though little actual progress was made.

Ms. Albright has summoned Mr. Netanyahu and Mr. Arafat for separate meetings in the past, each time with expectations that those talks would lead to a summit. Mr. Arafat and Netanyahu last met in October.

However, Mr. Blair appeared to have won the trust of both sides with his easy charm. A new player in the process, Mr. Blair also brought with him the prestige of having negotiated a power-sharing agreement in Northern Ireland.

The British leader said Tuesday he did not want to raise expectations, but that the London talks would be very important.

"As the prime minister just said, if we can surprise ourselves...let's do so," he told a joint news conference.

The talks also took on greater urgency because U.S. officials indicated that their patience was running

out and that they expected Mr. Netanyahu and Mr. Arafat to make difficult decisions this time around.

"The time is running out for these hard decisions to be made," U.S. State Department spokesman James Rubin said Tuesday. Mr. Rubin would not rule out that the United States would withdraw as mediator if the London talks ended inconclusively.

The United States has proposed that Israel hand over 13.1 per cent of the West Bank in several stages over 12 weeks, with each pull-back met by Palestinian security gestures.

Mr. Netanyahu has said he would withdraw from no more than 9 per cent, but Israeli officials suggested Monday that Israel was willing to increase the offer to 11 per cent.

Mr. Arafat has said he would "deal positively" with the U.S. initiative. The United States expects him to take a number of security measures, such as disarming Islamists.

Both Mr. Netanyahu and Mr. Arafat said that if sepa-

rate talks with Ms. Albright go well, they were willing to meet face to face.

"There is no meeting planned between Yasser Arafat and myself. We'll have a series of meetings that we have talked about there, and we will just take it from there," Mr. Netanyahu said. "We will see what happens." Mr. Arafat said Monday that he was also willing in principle to hold talks with Mr. Netanyahu, but that he would want Mr. Blair to participate in a summit, in addition to Ms. Albright.

The Palestinians have long sought a more active European involvement in the negotiations, something the United States and Israel have been wary of.

Mr. Blair reiterated Tuesday that he did not want to compete with the Americans, only to complement their peace initiative.

The British would "do whatever we can in whatever limited way to support the Mideast peace process," he said. Britain holds the rotating presidency of the European Union.



## King Hussein honours Mahmoud Al Kayed for distinguished service

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday conferred the Al Hussein Medal of the First Order for distinguished service on Mahmoud Al Kayed, former chairman of the Board of Directors of Al Ra'i newspaper and former president of Jordan Press Association (JPA) in appreciation of his unique contribution to the press and journalism profession and his distinguished services at the Jordan Press Foundation. The King presented Mr. Kayed with the medal during an audience at the Royal Court. Mr. Kayed, a member of the National Charter Committee, had also been awarded Jordan's Independence Medal of the First Order. Mr. Kayed was first elected as chairman of the Board of Directors of Al Ra'i in 1986. In 1988 he was reelected to this post, which he retained until April 16, 1998. Prior to that Mr. Kayed was elected as president of the JPA for two terms from 1983-1986. In 1976 he was the chief editor of Al Ra'i Arabic daily and in 1973 he was the managing editor.

## Turkish warplanes training in Israel

EILAT (AP) — Several F-16 jet fighters of the Turkish air force are training at an Israeli air base this week, a newspaper said Tuesday.

The planes arrived on Sunday and the training will continue until Friday, the Haaretz daily said.

The army had no immediate comment.

The training flights are the first in Israel since

Israel and Turkey signed a military cooperation agreement in 1996, the newspaper said. The deal allows each air force to train in the other country's air space.

The two countries conducted a joint naval exercise in January.

Turkey has awarded Israel Aircraft Industries a \$632.5 million contract to upgrade 54

Turkish air force F-4 Phantom jets.

The Turkish deputy chief of staff, Gen. Cevik Bir, visited Israel a year ago.

Syria and Egypt have expressed concern about the increasing military cooperation between Israel and Turkey, saying it is a threat to peace and security in the region.

## U.N. commission condemns 'human rights abuses'

GENEVA (AFP) — The U.N. Human Rights Commission on Tuesday condemned the Iraqi government for "systematic" human rights abuses which it said were carried out under a reign of terror.

The commission presented a detailed list of human rights violations, including torture, summary executions and political killings in a resolution adopted by 32 countries. Twenty-one abstained.

The strongly-worded document denounced "the systematic, widespread and extremely grave violations of human rights" by President Saddam Hussein's regime in Iraq, which based its mandate on "an all-pervasive repression and oppression sustained by broad-based

discrimination and widespread terror."

Prior to the vote, Iraq's delegate to the commission defended Baghdad against the charges of arbitrary execution, saying that death sentences were carried out according to the law and were not politically motivated.

A report presented to the commission earlier this month had estimated the number of politically-motivated executions in Iraq last year at more than 1,500.

Responding to the resolution's demand that Baghdad release all Kuwaitis and other nationals still in detention following the 1991 Gulf war, the Iraqi delegate insisted there were no remaining prisoners of war in Iraq.

## Indian court raps Israeli diplomat

NEW DELHI (AFP) — India's Supreme Court pulled up an Israeli diplomat Tuesday for putting on his coat in front of the judges... a serious breach of etiquette.

The Press Trust of India said the attaché was reprimanded by judges S.P. Bharucha and V.N. Khare for entering the courtroom with a folded coat and putting it on while making a submission.

"This is not the way to appear in an Indian court," one of the judges told him, adding that it was "not a place to put on one's coat or jacket."

"This is a court of law," he said.

The Israeli diplomat, who left the court after apologising to the judges, had been summoned in connection with a case filed against a New Delhi builder accused of fraud.

## Queen Elizabeth celebrates her 72nd birthday

LONDON (AFP) — Britain's Queen Elizabeth II celebrated her 72nd birthday Tuesday privately with members of her family at Windsor Castle. An absentee was her husband, the Duke of Edinburgh, who is in Australia on official business. Her anniversary was marked with a special salute from the Gibraltar Regiment which fired a 62-gun salute at the Tower of London. The Tower salute is 62 guns, made up of the traditional 21-gun salute plus 20 as the Tower is a royal palace and fortress, and an extra 21 as a mark of respect for the sovereign from the City of London.

## Microsoft's Gates hits technical hitches of his own

CHICAGO (R) — Computer mogul Bill Gates had a couple of his own run-ins with technology on Monday as he kicked off a convention where Microsoft Corp. sought to impress with its most user-friendly new offerings. It was awkward enough when the presenter had trouble getting his microphone to work ahead of Gates' keynote speech. But then Windows 98, Microsoft's updated version of its operating system software, crashed during Gates' presentation. "While we're all very dependent on technology, it doesn't always work," Gates joked.

## Pol Pot death a headache for Thai bookies

BANGKOK (R) — When Pol Pot's number came up last week, so did those of some lucky Thai lottery punters. On hearing news of the reformed dictator's death last Thursday, villagers in Thailand's northeastern Si Saket province, near the Cambodian border, scrambled to put their money on number 73. Pol Pot's age of death. Uncannily, they were right. When the lottery result came out that evening, 7 and 3 were the last two digits of the first prize ticket. Underground bookies in Thailand usually take bets from millions of punters on what the last two digits of the winning ticket will be.

## 6, gets early hands-on training

ACIREALE (R) — A child believed to be about six years old got some hands-on training in hold-ups when adult bandits put a ski mask on his head and took him along while they robbed a supermarket. The robbery took place at the weekend in the small town in eastern Sicily and was reported by Italian media on Monday. Two masked men carrying pistols burst into the supermarket and began the robbery. Then a man holding a masked child by the hand walked in and helped his comrades clean out the cash register. According to witnesses quoted by Italian media the child remained silent during the robbery. He tried to steal some candy but did not manage to reach the counter where it was displayed because he was too short.

## Drunk Finn driver fined for ramming Santa sled

HELSINKI (R) — A Finnish drunken driver who last Christmas rammed his car into a Santa sled pulled by a reindeer escaped with a light sentence on Monday. STT news agency said. The judge said the 69-year-old man deserved leniency because his surprise at seeing the Father Christmas and reindeer was partly to blame for the crash. The man, whose blood alcohol level was only slightly over the legal limit, was fined 1,500 marks (\$270).

## Erekat: Israel holding up U.S. peace proposals

RAMALLAH (AFP) — The Palestinians bristled Tuesday at U.S. calls for both sides to show flexibility in upcoming talks over the peace process, insisting Israel, not the Palestinians, was hampering U.S. mediation.

"It is not right to compare the positive, brave positions shown by (Palestinian leader) Yasser Arafat towards the U.S. proposals with Israel's position refusing the ideas," said senior Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat.

"The time has come for the United States to put forward its proposals publicly, rather than hint about Israeli troop withdrawals and try to throw blame on both sides," Mr. Erekat told AFP.

Mr. Erekat was reacting to statements made by U.S. State Department spokesman James Rubin, who announced Tuesday that Mr. Netanyahu and Mr. Arafat would meet sep-

arately with U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright in London on May 4.

Mr. Rubin said Ms. Albright would seek "substantive decisions" from both Israel and the Palestinians over U.S. proposals for a promised Israeli troop withdrawal from the West Bank.

President Arafat on Monday gave his most open acceptance to date of the U.S. ideas, even though the West Bank pullback which the proposal reportedly calls for falls far short of Palestinian demands.

"We have said yes to the American proposals in principle. We are waiting for them to be announced publicly to give an official response," Mr. Arafat said.

Prime Minister Netanyahu, in turn, has resisted the U.S. initiative, which reportedly calls for Israel to conduct a withdrawal from 13 per cent of the West Bank and slow

down Jewish settlement building in tandem with Palestinian steps in the fight against terrorism.

Mr. Netanyahu insists that the proposed scope is too large, and on Monday his government repeated that it would not accept a 13 per cent withdrawal.

Mr. Rubin said the London meetings, which could lead to an Arafat-Netanyahu summit, would be held "to determine whether the ideas presented by the U.S. can provide a basis for a breakthrough."

He hinted that the United States could call a halt to its mediation efforts if the two sides failed to take "the important decisions."

U.S. special envoy Dennis Ross is expected in the region Friday to meet with both leaders to arrange the Albright meetings and try to narrow the differences over the American proposals.

## Netanyahu wants Moledet in coalition

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is negotiating to bring into his government an extreme right-wing party which wants to expel Palestinians from the occupied territories, officials said Tuesday. Rehavam Zeevi, leader of the Moledet Party, told Israel Radio Tuesday that Mr. Netanyahu had invited him to join the coalition government but that an agreement on the terms of the merger had not yet been reached.

"We haven't yet agreed on anything concrete, there are still some political differences to resolve, but there is a good chance for success," said Mr. Zeevi.

Mr. Netanyahu also admitted approaching Moledet, which has two seats in parliament, to strengthen his coalition of seven nationalist and religious parties.

The government currently has only a one-seat majority in the 120-member parliament.

Speaking to reporters Mr. Netanyahu claimed that bringing Moledet into the government, which would presumably mean giving Mr. Zeevi a cabinet post, would "strengthen the peace process" with the Palestinians.

## Hariri, Mubarak discuss Israeli withdrawal offer

CAIRO (AP) — Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri met Tuesday with President Hosni Mubarak to seek Egypt's backing for its stance on an Israeli troop withdrawal from Lebanon.

After the hour and a half meeting, Mr. Hariri repeated Lebanon's position that any pullback should be "with no prior conditions" in line with U.N. resolutions.

His comments came a day after U.S. Defence Secretary William Cohen, on a visit to Israel, urged Lebanon and Syria to respond positively to the Jewish state's proposal to pull its troops out of southern Lebanon. Syria is the main power-broker in Lebanon.

Mr. Hariri, in Egypt on a two-day visit, met Mr. Mubarak at the Presidential Palace. He later was to hold consultations with Esam Abdul Meguid, secretary-general of the Arab League.

Mr. Hariri and Mr. Mubarak were to attend an evening concert, featuring Lebanese singer Majida Al Roumi, to mark the anniversary of Israel's withdrawal from the Sinai peninsula on April 25, 1982. Israel had occupied the peninsula in the 1967 Middle East war.

Israel first invaded Lebanon in 1978 and in 1985 established the "security zone" it still occupies today.

Israel's Cabinet earlier this month formally accepted U.N. Security Council Resolution 425, which calls for an Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon. It was the first time Israel expressed willingness to withdraw without first reaching a peace agreement with Lebanon.

Before withdrawing, however, Israel wants assurances that Lebanon will deploy its army in the south and guarantee the security of northern Israeli settlements from guerrilla raids.

Mr. Hariri said Lebanon would not agree to conditions and added: "Security is the result of peace, and not the other way around." The prime minister said Lebanon has asked the United States to support its position that the withdrawal be made without conditions.

Mr. Hariri also is expected to visit other countries — including Morocco, Russia, Britain, France and China — to explain Lebanon's stance.

Peace talks between Israel and Syria broke down in March 1996, and the two sides disagree on ground rules for resuming them. Any settlement with Lebanon was expected to follow Syria's lead.

## Lost chances of a Palestinian homeland

By David Millikin  
Agence France Presse

JERUSALEM — Israel's 50th anniversary marks not only the creation of the Jewish state but also a series of lost opportunities which could have given Palestinians the homeland they are still struggling to obtain a half-century later.

Internal Palestinian rivalries, conflicting ambitions among Arab leaders and an historic miscalculation of the international mood combined to deprive Palestinians of a state far more vast than the territory they are now negotiating over with such great difficulty.

November 29, 1947 — the United Nations adopted a partition plan ending the British mandate.

Arabs were offered a state comprising three enclaves — one around Acre and the western Galilee, another including the Gaza Strip and a portion of the frontier with the Sinai and a third comprising the Judean and Samarian hills with the

exception of Jerusalem, which was to be placed under international administration.

The Jews were given a strip of land including the northern Galilee panhandle and sea of Galilee, the central Mediterranean coastline and the Negev in the south — about 50 per cent of Palestine.

The Jewish leadership in Palestine grouped around the pragmatic David Ben Gurion accepted the plan even though it excluded the holiest parts of the biblical land of Israel in Judea, Samaria and Jerusalem.

Arabs, convinced of their rights, rejected the proposal, insisting on the creation of a unitary, democratic state in which they would be the majority.

While Jews danced in the streets of Tel Aviv on the night of November 29, Arab anger boiled over.

On November 30, seven Jews were killed in a series of ambushes while the newspaper of the powerful Hussein clan, Al Wahda,

proclaimed: "What was written in black and white at (the United Nations) will be erased in red in Palestine."

For the next five and a half months, until the proclamation of Israel's independence on May 14, Palestine was torn by tit-for-tat guerrilla violence between Jews and Arabs which would leave 160 dead in the first 15 days, mostly Arabs.

Despite their advantage in numbers and arms, the Arab camp was divided among various poorly coordinated guerrilla forces backed by rival Arab capitals whose ambitions and colonial alliances were often at odds.

Already in July 1937 the Arabs had rejected a first tentative British partition plan put forward by a commission headed by Sir Robert Peel.

That proposal offered Jews autonomy in part of the northern Galilee region and a strip of coast from Acre to a point 30 kilometers (20 miles) north of Gaza, keeping under British control an enclave around

Jerusalem and Bethlehem and granting Palestinian Arabs the rest.

Ben Gurion's leadership tentatively accepted the plan, although it was fiercely opposed by nationalist militants.

Arab leaders with few exceptions rejected the proposal outright, although it would have put three quarters of Palestine in their hands.

May 14, 1948 — Ben Gurion proclaimed the creation of Israel.

Within hours, seven Arab armies marched on the new state and in the subsequent fighting, Israel expanded its control over 80 per cent of Palestine, which would make up the Jewish state until the 1967 Six-Day war.

Today the state ambition of the Palestinian leadership headed by Yasser Arafat is simply to set up the long-awaited Palestinian state within those 1967 borders, a shadow of the land offered 20 years earlier but refused.

CAIRO (AFP) — Libya has agreed to extradite two suspects in the 1988 Lockerbie bombing, but a judge named by Britain to try the case has said the extradition would be a "technicality" and the case could be tried by a panel of judges. The judge, Lord Hope, said Wednesday that the case could be tried by a panel of judges. The judge, Lord Hope, said Wednesday that the case could be tried by a panel of judges. The judge, Lord Hope, said Wednesday that the case could be tried by a panel of judges.

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